FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Latin America

Vol VI No 194 *7 October 1985*

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Nicaragua To Request 'Truce' From U.S. A 1

ARGENTINA

Army Chief on Attempts to Discredit Military B 1
Caputo, Swiss Official Discuss Falklands Issue B 1
Immigration Law Restricts Permanent Residence B 2

BRAZIL

U.S. Nuclear Submarine Forbidden To Dock D 1
[O GLOBO 2 Oct]
Navy Minister Reports Arms Agreement With British D 1
[FOLHA DE SAO PAULO]

PERU

Prison Riots, 30 Killed as Maoists Resist Search [AFP] J 1
Government Supervising U.S. Oil Companies [AFP] J 1
Minister Comments on Fishing Talks With USSR J 2

URUGUAY

Diplomatic Ties With Cuba To Resume 'This Month' K 1
Reportage on President's Visit to Spain and Italy K 1
[cross-reference]
Madrid Coverage K 1
AFP on Italy Visit K 1
Government Proposes 1-Year Social Pact K 1

PANAMA

Reportage on Work Stoppage Called By Cocina N 1
Only Partially Effective [STAR AND HERALD 4 Oct] N 1
Cocina's Zuniga Issues Statement N 2
Del Valle Discusses Foreign Debt, U.S. Relations N 4
[EXCELSIOR 2 Oct]

CENTRAL AMERICA

COSTA RICA

Red Cross Border Posts on 'State of Alert' P 1

EL SALVADOR

Duarte Reportedly Ready To Trade Rebels for Daughter P 1
Negotiations 'Stalemated' P 2
Prisoners Await Release P 2
FMLN Guerrillas Begin 12th Sabotage Campaign P 2
FMLN Captures La Laguna, El Paisnal Mayors P 3
[Venceremos]
Kidnapped Chalatenango Mayors Issue Communique P 3
[Venceremos]
Second Communique Refutes Ochoa P 4
[Farabundo Marti]

GUATEMALA

New Economy, Finance Ministers Take Office P 5
Mejia Urges Bishops To Have Faith in Elections P 6

HONDURAS

Troops on 'Red Alert' as Contadora Meeting Opens P 6
Four Kidnapped Citizens Returned by EPS P 7
[EL HERALDO 3 Oct]

NICARAGUA

Ortega Condemns U.S. Policy on 'Face the People' P 7
Ortega Interviewed on Costa Rican TV Program P 13
[BARRICADA 4 Oct]
Urges Central American Unity P 14
Ministry Reports Attacks from Costa Rica P 15
Unidentified Planes Overfly Border Area P 15
Ortega Issues Decree on C.A. Customs Agreement P 15
[BARRICADA 2 Oct]

CUBA

Castro Speech Commemorates CDR Anniversary Q 1

NICARAGUA TO REQUEST 'TRUCE' FROM U.S.

PA070001 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2350 GMT 6 Oct 85

[Text] Panama City, 6 Oct (ACAN-EFE) -- Nicaragua is going to ask the Contadora Group to ask the United States to declare a truce "in its warlike policy" against the Sandinist government in order to "create the conditions to sign a peace agreement in the area."

Victor Hugo Tinoco, Nicaraguan deputy foreign minister, said here today that the current "climate of tension" in Central America "does not help" the regional talks scheduled to resume here tomorrow.

Top-level representatives of Central America and the Contadora Group (Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia, and Panama) are to meet here to conclude the regional peace document, which has been in the drafting and revising stages for over a year.

Tinoco said in a news conference that "the Contadora Group, in its quest for peace, has to propose that the United States seek a way to create a climate of detente, and stop its policy of aggression against Nicaragua." Tinoco said that the U.S. Administration must stop its "constant verbal attacks, its financing of the 'counterrevolutionaries', its naval threats, and territorial violations, to see if we can reach an agreement in that context."

The Contadora Group has been holding negotiations since January 1983 and, following several interruptions provoked by discrepancies arising from incidents in the area, the deadline to conclude the peace treaty expires on 20 November. Tinoco asserted that the progress in the Central American peace efforts "will be blocked if there is no peaceful climate."

In addition, the Nicaraguan deputy foreign minister noted that the Sandinist Foreign Ministry expects the Contadora Group to appoint a commission to visit the Honduran Department of El Paraiso, bordering on Nicaragua, where there is a "hotbed of tension and an armed conflict that is very serious and very dangerous." According to the Managua regime, 2,500 anti-Sandinists are gathered there in a "threatening" manner with the intention of invading Nicaragua.

"We are urgently asking for this commission because, otherwise, we may be meeting here today or tomorrow and a conflict may break out anywhere along the border," the Nicaraguan deputy foreign minister added.

Both proposals, Tinoco added, will be presented by taking advantage of the meeting that will open tomorrow and will have nothing to do with the agenda of the meeting, which has been called for the exclusive purpose of completing the draft of the regional peace treaty.

"One thing does not exclude the other," the deputy foreign minister added.

ARMY CHIEF ON ATTEMPTS TO DISCREDIT MILITARY

PY050250 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1913 GMT 3 Oct 85

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Oct (TELAM) -- Army Chief of Staff General Hector Rios Erenu said today before the Army High Command that the Argentine Army will not alter its respect for the chain of command. General Rios made this comment before high-ranking Army officers assigned to the Army headquarters in the Libertador Building.

The Army chief also said the Army is facing a campaign aimed at discrediting its integrity as an institution of the Republic. He said this campaign seeks to take away the Army's ability to react and that the campaign is part of the many interests made possible by the current period of transition.

He also reiterated his commitment and firm willingness to do his best for the Army, saying that his loyalty for the institution must be reciprocated at all levels. He also referred to the achievements made this year, and pointed out that he does not get advice from outside the institution, and that he has no commitments that are not strictly related to the Army.

General Rios then discussed the negative factors that affect the current situation, pointing to the rumors and distorted image presented by some media. He also said there is a real campaign aimed against the Army and that it is aimed at breaking the institutional equilibrium, a goal that responds to all kinds of interests. Therefore, he said, it is necessary to remain united through this difficult situation.

Rios said an opportunity that should not be wasted occurred in December 1983, that this opportunity has no political connotations but is closely linked with the country's future, and that all efforts must be aimed at strengthening the country.

General Rios also referred to the reorganization of the Army under his command, saying that realistic and practical studies are being made because there is full awareness of what the Army wants. He discarded the solutions published daily by some media emphasizing that the media is making efforts to create internal confrontations aimed at reviving old military rivalries. He also said that some media try to distort information regarding Army measures and actions for promoting Army members who may be summoned to testify in court.

With regard to the actions resulting from the antisubversion struggle, General Rios said that equilibrium and prudence should be used to live with them. He said that there is no surrender, indifference, or lack of action but only respect for justice which does not allow simple or hasty solutions.

General Rios also referred to other current issues related to specific Army matters.

CAPUTO, SWISS OFFICIAL DISCUSS FALKLANDS ISSUE

PY041144 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2323 GMT 3 Oct 85

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Oct (DYN) -- Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo said tonight that today he talked with Swiss Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Edouard Brunner.

The officials discussed the "evolution" of the Malvinas issue, but made it clear that Switzerland "has not made any specific proposal" to resume negotiations with Great Britain. Switzerland has represented British interests in Argentina since the war over the Malvinas in 1982.

Brunner talked with Caputo for almost 1 hour after the latter returned from the United States at noon today. In a brief conversation with journalists, Caputo explained that he had talked with Brunner -- whom he described as a "great friend of Argentina" -- about the UN General Assembly and about "the most interesting international subject, that is, the Malvinas issue."

Caputo also said the two "had a useful exchange of opinions," and that "Switzerland's attitude and its willingness to help in this complicated matter" was made very clear. He added that "we talked about and evaluated the situation." In response to a question, Caputo answered that the Swiss official did not make any specific proposals.

In conclusion, Caputo said that no bilateral issues were discussed with the Swiss official, who will leave for Switzerland tomorrow at noon.

IMMIGRATION LAW RESTRICTS PERMANENT RESIDENCE

PY031359 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0035 GMT 3 Oct 85

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 2 Oct (NA) -- National Migrations Director Evaristo Iglesias has reported that the government has ordered that beginning today -- and retroactive to 8 August -- only those foreigners who come to the country and invest no less than $30,000 will be able to obtain permanent residence.

This announcement was made during a press conference held this afternoon by Iglesias, who labeled the measure "unwanted and undesired." He stated that the measure is "temporary," until the economy recovers and the country again is able to allow an open-door immigration policy.

In accordance with a resolution approved today, foreigners who entered the country before 8 August will be able to receive permanent residence while those foreigners who entered the country after 8 August will only receive a tourist visa. Once this tourist visa expires, "these foreigners will be officially warned that they are to leave Argentine territory," Iglesias reported.

After mentioning, among other arguments, "the employment problem" and the serious hospital, housing, and food shortages, Iglesias stated that beginning today only those foreigners who bring capital for investment totalling no less than "$30,000," will be able to reside in the country.

U.S. NUCLEAR SUBMARINE FORBIDDEN TO DOCK

PY041501 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 2 Oct 85 p 7

[Text] Santos, Sao Paulo State -- The U.S. nuclear submarine, the USS Shark, probably carrying medium-range nuclear missiles, has been anchored at Munduba Point on Guaruja Island, 5 km from the port of Santos, since yesterday afternoon. The Brazilian Navy and National Nuclear Energy Commission [CNEN] have forbidden the nuclear submarine from docking.

The 76.6-meter-long Skipjack class submarine, carrying a 93-man crew, will remain until tomorrow in a 250-meter zone closed to nonmilitary vessels. The CNEN has requested that a Navy patrol boat collect samples of the water where the submarine is anchored for laboratory analysis to determine whether it contains radioactive material.

Four other U.S. ships -- three destroyers and a supply ship -- arrived yesterday at Santos Port, where they will remain until the beginning of the 26th Unitas Operation, which will start 3 October and will probably end on 22 October. The participating ships will also visit the ports of Rio de Janeiro and Salvador (dates yet to be confirmed). The Brazilian and Uruguayan navies will also participate in the Unitas maneuvers this year. Uruguay has sent only one frigate, the R.O.U. 18 de Julio.

NAVY MINISTER REPORTS ARMS AGREEMENT WITH BRITISH

PY032133 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 2 Oct 85 p 8

[Text] Navy Minister Admiral Henrique Saboia has disclosed that the agreement between the Brazilian Government and the British Aerospace Company for the purchase of antiship missiles was signed in November 1984. The minister said the contract involves 12 million pounds for the purchase of Sea Skener [name as published] air-to-surface missiles that will be used to equip the Lynx helicopters also made in Britain. The number of missiles involved in the operation has not been disclosed. The Sea Skener missiles were used by the British forces in the Malvinas war.

Yesterday Admiral Henrique Saboia said he was not aware of any new purchase agreement. He said that to his knowledge the only purchase of that kind was made during the last administration and that no new agreement in this regard has been reached.

Minister Henrique Saboia will today head the admiralty meeting at 0930 to discuss operational matters only. A new meeting will be held in November after Admiral Henrique Saboia returns from a 5-day visit to Buenos Aires.

PRISON RIOTS, 30 KILLED AS MAOISTS RESIST SEARCH

HK050530 Hong Kong AFP in English 050500 GMT 5 Oct 85

[Text] Lima, Oct 5 (AFP) -- More than 30 prisoners burned to death Friday when 300 alleged Maoist guerrillas imprisoned in Peru's capital set fire to their cell block to keep guards from searching for weapons.

Marxist members of parliament also charged that several children burned to death when police set fire to shacks while dislodging 20,000 squatters from land next to the international airport here on Thursday. Authorities had only admitted one death in the police attack there.

Meanwhile, Peru's cardinal, Juan Landazuri, expressed "consternation" over massacres of "humble peasants including women and tender children" by guerrillas and soldiers in the Ayacucho region of the Andes mountains.

The prison mutineers wounded 19 guards and police with aluminum bullets and arrows fired from home-made weapons, said national penitentiary president Manuel Aquezolo. He said the 30 burned men were locked in two cells, apparently to keep them from surrendering to police who finally dynamited their way into the building at four points. No guard had been able to enter that cell block for 18 months.

The squatters resisted with dynamite sticks, molotov cocktails and knives, the interior ministry stated.

GOVERNMENT SUPERVISING U.S. OIL COMPANIES

PY050045 Paris AFP in Spanish 1837 GMT 4 Oct 85

[Text] Lima, 4 Oct (AFP) -- Energy and Mines Minister Wilfredo Huayta last night revealed that the U.S. Belco Petroleum Company, one of the three foreign oil companies whose operation contacts the Peruvian Government rescinded, will continue to operate in the country under the conditions imposed by the Peruvian Government.

Belco, which is operating in the northern Peruvian sea area, has stated to the Energy and Mines Ministry that it will continue exploration and exploitation activities for at least the 90-day period granted by the government to sign new contracts.

Addressing the Peruvian senate, Huayta stated that the other two companies, namely the Occidental Petroleum Corporation and the Oxy-Bridas Company, will also continue to operate the country and are even conducting negotiations to sign new contracts.

Huayta stated that unless the transnational companies invest in exploration activities the $650 million they reaped illegally through tax exemptions, the Peruvian state-owned enterprise State Petroleum Agency (Petroperu) will take over all the petroleum output.

After stressing that foreign capital is indispensable and that it is necessary to enact consistent laws to make national development possible, the Energy and Mines Minister announced that he has received 12 representatives of foreign companies interested in investing in petroleum.

Huayta emphasized that in Peru there are 80 million hectares, covering 18 petroleum-bearing basins, that must be surveyed to become productive fields and that a hydrocarbons law is urgently needed to guarantee foreign investments.

After stating that the crude oil output in the country is normal, Huayta said that an additional $2.88 will be paid to the Belco company for every barrel of crude oil extracted and delivered by this company because their operational costs are considered high. Therefore, a new price to be paid by Petroperu totals $8.31 per barrel.

In this regard, the ministry resolution stated that Belco asked for this increase to continue its drilling operations because of high operations costs.

MINISTER COMMENTS ON FISHING TALKS WITH USSR

PY031422 Lima Cadena Panamericana Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 3 Oct 85

[Excerpts] An agreement was signed at the Fisheries Ministry today for the implementation of a program to produce and market tinned sardines at a low cost.

At the end of the ceremony, Fishing Minister Jose Palomino referred to the fishing agreement with the Soviet Union and to the Pescaperu enterprise [state fishmeal and fish oil production agency] that will be reopened by the government.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] And talking about agreement, Mr Minister, what about the fishing agreement with the Soviet Union?

[Palomino] This problem has still not made much progress because, as you well know, the agreement that was in force expired on 26 August. We have proposed extending the agreement and the Soviet enterprise has proposed a new agreement, but we do not agree with the terms of the new agreement and have insisted that the previous agreement be extended on the same terms. We have held negotiations for about 30 days and have made some progress, but we still have not reached any agreement. Therefore, we have nothing to announce.

What I can disclose, however, is that if we sign an agreement, it will be a government-to-government agreement, free of middlemen, and with terms favorable to Peru. [end recording]

DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH CUBA TO RESUME 'THIS MONTH'

PA061500 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1442 GMT 6 Oct 85

[Text] Montevideo, 6 Oct (EFE) -- Uruguay will resume diplomatic relations with Cuba during the course of this month, Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti has announced. The Montevideo newspapers published a report today that the Uruguayan president made this statement at a press conference held in the Spanish city of Barcelona.

According to the newspapers, Sanguinetti noted that only a few details remain to be taken care of before relations can be resumed. Uruguayan contacts with Cuba have been underway for several months, following the re-establishment of democracy in Uruguay after 12 years of military rule.

A Uruguayan trade mission composed of representatives of the public and private sectors was in Havana 2 months ago to institute trade relations. Commercial relations were established, as were consular ties, but the resumption of the diplomatic relations have been delayed. Recently Fidel Castro told Uruguayan newsmen in Havana that relations will undoubtedly be resumed, but that there is no hurry, no need to act hastily. Uruguay severed its relations with Cuba in fulfillment of a resolution emanating from the OAS conference held in Punta del Este in 1962.

REPORTAGE ON PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO SPAIN AND ITALY

Madrid Coverage

For Madrid coverage of the visit to Spain by President Julio Sanguinetti, see the Spain section of the 4 October Western Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

AFP on Italy Visit

For AFP coverage of the visit to Italy by President Julio Sanguinetti, including his meetings with Italian President Francesco Cossiga, see the Italy subsection of the Other Countries section of the 3 October Western Europe DAILY REPORT.

GOVERNMENT PROPOSES 1-YEAR SOCIAL PACT

PY051900 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0059 GMT 5 Oct 85

[Text] Montevideo, 4 Oct (EFE) -- The Uruguayan Government has proposed to union and business organizations a 1-year social pact on matters of salaries, pensions, and labor conflicts.

The proposal was made by Labor Minister Hugo Fernandez Faingold at a meeting with representatives of political parties, union organizations, and the chambers of Commerce and Industry. Those who attended the meeting said it was designed to impart information. This was the first meeting held with a view toward resuming social dialogue, since the government suspended it 43 days ago as a result of mounting labor conflicts. Fernandez said that real salaries have increased by 12 percent since the democratic government was inaugurated on 1 March. He added that a social pact would create an atmosphere conducive to the implementation of economic and reactive policies in the country.

The National Convention of Workers (CNT), the main Uruguayan labor organization, has submitted to the government a document requesting negotiations between workers and employers, and asking that salaries be increased by 6 percent every 2 months to rebuild the workers' real salaries. The CNT has also requested a full annual bonus payment to retired workers and monthly minimum pensions of 7,200 pesos ($70).

REPORTAGE ON WORK STOPPAGE CALLED BY COCINA

Only Partially Effective

PA041435 Panama City STAR AND HERALD in English 4 Oct 85 pp 1, 6

[Text] The 24-hour work stoppage called yesterday by the National Civilian Democratic Coordinating Council (Cocina) was partial in all effects and results. Public offices, commercial and industrial businesses operated as usual, although a few of them closed their doors. A noticeable drop in vehicular traffic was evident, but transportation was avaiblable, as buses and taxis, in a large part, worked as usual.

During the hours of the walkout, more than one hundred persons mainly youths, conducted a vigil at the El Carmen church to pray for the health of Dr Winston Spadafora and to support his demands to the president for a special commission to investigate the death of his brother, guerrilla leader Dr Hugo Spadafora.

The vigil, which was scheduled for 12 hours, commenced at 7 a.m. and was supposed to continue until 7 p.m. yesterday evening. "We are praying because Dr Winston Spadafora's condition is very delicate, and is causing us great worry", some of the demonstrators told the STAR AND HERALD. The vigil at El Carmen church was joined by persons of both sexes of different student and professional groups. This formed part of the actions taken by Cocina to demand the naming of the special commission to probe Dr Spadafora's murder. It was open to anyone who desired to participate.

Yesterday's work stoppage, sought by Cocina, was taken as a measure to call attention to the executive branch to name a special commission of investigators. The stoppage was partial in the capital city, and likewise in cities of the interior such as Chitre, Santiago, Penonome, David, Aguadulce and Las Tablas. Although at no time was there any noticeable suspension of transport service, a lighter traffic movement was evident.

Public schools remained closed as the Ministry of Education had announced they would be on Wednesday afternoon. The education minister had taken this measure to avoid "anarchy in the country".

A Cocina official said yesterday that the national university did not operate in its usual fashion. Students of social education, as well as other groups such as the FER-29 [Revolutionary Students Front], which includes law students, had approved the 24 hour walkout.

Members of the Spadafora family and supporters of Cocina have said that if a special commission is not named soon to investigate the Dr Spadafora case, "stronger action will be taken."

Meanwhile, Winston Spadafora, elder brother of the doctor who was found murdered last Sept 15, in Costa Rican territory, completed his tenth day of a hunger strike to demand the naming of the commission. Although Spadafora's condition remains stable intellectually, the hunger strike is beginning to negatively affect his body.

Cocina's Zuniga Issues Statement

PA031956 Panama City Radio Mundial in Spanish 1707 GMT 3 Oct 85

[Statement by Mauro Zuniga, national coordinator of the Coordinating Board for National Civilianization, Cocina, and secretary general of the Association of Doctors, Dentists, and Related Professionals of the Social Security Fund, Amoacss; place not given -- live]

[Excerpts] Good afternoon, Panamanian people. The Coordinating Board for National Civilianization Cocina, is acting in response to the request made to the nation by the Spadafora family on Monday, 30 September, to give the national government a deadline to appoint a special investigating commission and then, if such request were not heeded, to begin at 0700 today a 24-hour strike of all the sectors of public opinion and all the pressure groups in our society. Cocina fulfilled that request from the Spadafora family. Immediately all of the groups that comprise Cocina met. At 0700 this morning all of these groups joined the strike. The information received during the morning hours in our office indicates that all the Cocina members at the national level have joined the strike.

A general assembly of the Amoacss [Association of Doctors, Dentists, and Related Professionals of the Social Security Institute] was held last night in order to define the attitude of Amoacss regarding that request. And, as was to be expected of this glorious Amocacss, the general assembly unanimously agreed to participate actively in the strike. I say unanimously, because this is the first time in the history of our organization that a strike has been accepted unanimously. There was not a single dissident voice, there were not a single abstention. The health workers of the country who comprise Amoacss voiced their presence yesterday, in these grave moments of anguish being experienced by the Panamanian nation.

Yesterday there was also an urgent, extraordinary meeting held by the Comenemal [National Medical Negotiating Commission], which is the organization that groups the five medical associations of the country. These are: the National Medical Association, the Amoacss, the Panamanian Association of General Medicine, the National Federation of Doctor Residents and Interns, and the Association of Specialized Doctors of the Santo Tomas Hospital, to ratify our decision to join the 24-hour strike requested by the Spadafora family.

Usually, our organizations of health workers keep the emergency rooms of hospitals operating. We also keep the hospital branches in operation. In other words, if a patient requries urgent attention, that patient can easily go to our emergency rooms where he will be given proper attention. Also, hospitalized patients in our facilities are offered continuous medical attention 24 hours a day.

Nevertheless, yesterday afternoon the Comenenal, in view of the increasing intimidation measures by the National Guard [name as heard], in view of the persistent campaign to discredit all Panamanians who one way or another are demanding the creation of this investigating commission, decided that if the National Guard violates the individual rights of Panamanians, then we will be compelled even to abandon the hospitals, to abandon the emergency rooms.

We have systematically denounced the progressive deterioration of the portion of the national budget earmarked for health. We have denounced it and we repeat our denunciation today. In 1965 the national government earmarked 15 percent of the budget to health. In 1985 that budget has been reduced to 5 percent. In 1965 the budget of the central government intended for education was 24 percent. In 1985 it has been reduced to 15 percent.

We see how the instruments and basic necessities in the fields of health and education are being curtailed. We have also denounced the fact that the budget for the basic sectors, such as health and education, is reduced to the same extent that the budget is increased [words indistinct].

These are situations that cannot be accepted by Panamanian society and cannot be accepted by the health workers. We cannot accept the fact that in Panama the military spends $300 million annually. We cannot accept the fact that in Panama the military spends $.25 million per day on pay alone. We cannot accept the fact that in Panama the military spends more on gasoline than the sum of the budgets of the Health Ministry, the Social Security Institute, the National University of Panama, the Technological University, the National Sports Institute, and other autonomous organizations.

These are situations that cannot be accepted by the Panamanian health workers, because such situations entail illness. And if illness is enemy number one of the health worker, then we must denounce this situation and change it.

We have repeatedly said that Panama cannot afford to have a National Guard [name as heard] the size of the present one. We have insisted that Panama needs a professional National Police, directed by dignified and genuine men, and we are certain these exist within that armed institute. We are certain that there are dignified men in that armed institute, who will raise high the banner of decency and recover the leadership of the National Guard [name as heard] and that they will take it on the paths of decency, dignity, and love for the fatherland.

We insist that the only way that decency and justice can prevail in our country is precisely through actions such as the one that is taking place today.

Here in our country there are more than 35 to 40 individuals who are missing. Here in our country there are more than 35 to 40 individuals dead and the Attorney General's Office has investigated the crimes, but nobody has been arrested as a result of those investigations. The Attorney General's Office even said that General Torrijos had died in an accident. Yet recently at the Legislative Assembly, we heard the brother of General Torrijos, legislator Hugo Torrijos, say that his brother had been the victim of an assassination. In fact, he even mentioned the name of the operation through which the crime was carried out: Operation Falcon in Flight. Yet the Office of the Attorney General said that the death of General Torrijos had been the result of an accident.

We have no confidence in the Office of the Attorney General. That is why we fully support the request of the Spadafora family to have a special investigating commission appointed, as is stipulated in the national Constitution and ratified, by the prominent attorneys, the National Bar Association, the dean of the University Law School, and many attorneys who indicate that the creation of such a commission is perfectly constitutional.

We ask and continue to ask what the interest of the government is in not creating that special investigating commission. What is being concealed? Who are being concealed? What is being covered up? Why is the special investigating commission not created? What is the reason for its noncreation? Why do all these government newspapers at the service of the military, instead of equally seeking a clarification of this crime, dedicate themselves to discrediting those of us who are in the opposition, who demand the creation of a special investigating commission by accusing us of being seditious? This indicates once again that the government leaders of this regime are changing our vocabulary. Who is seditious? Those who are struggling for the health of this country, who struggle for the investigation of things to the end, or is it those persons who want to maintain anarchy, chaos, and impunity in Panama? They are very skilled at changing terminologies.

Fortunately, the people already know who they are and realize who wants to destabilize the country, and who wants to create chaos. That is why the response is being made today; today in the interior part of the country, in the province of Panama. Today at all the hospitals, the doctors, the health workers are on strike. Throughout the country the members of Cocina are on strike. And all over the country important sectors of businessmen are not working either. All over the country many employees have stopped working, despite the threats. This is an indication that Panama is a decent country, that Panamanians are convinced that it is through unity, through organized activities, within the peaceful path, that we can achieve final triumph.

This is the first measure. Today's strike is the first measure requested by the family. We are awaiting new measures indicated by the Spadafora family. It is precisely within the peaceful framework that we will achieve victory.

DEL VALLE DISCUSSES FOREIGN DEBT, U.S. RELATIONS

PA051804 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 2 Oct 85 pp 1 A, 19 A

[Report on interview with President Eric Arturo Del Valle by EXCELSIOR reporter Gilberto D'Estrabau in Panama City on 1 October]

[Excerpts] Panama City, 1 Oct -- New Panamanian President Eric Arturo Del Valle said here today that this week he will speak with Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid to reiterate the Panamanian Government's plans to continue supporting and working within the Contadora Group. Del Valle also plans to express his condolences to President De la Madrid over the tragedy that Mexico has experienced and to offer Panama's greatest support in this ordeal.

Peace and dialogue, Del Valle stressed, is Panama's slogan in its relations with Nicaragua and with Central America in general.

Regarding its relations with the United States, Panama's foreign policy will be independent, the president said. "We want to have friendly relations with all peoples as long as they respect us and consider us a sovereign country."

Del Valle ruled out the possibility that Panama will become militarized in the next few years and he reiterated his friendship with Panama's strongman General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander of the Defense Forces. He also refused to guarantee that a special commission will be appointed to investigate the assassination, castration [as published], and decapitation of Hugo Spadafora who was called the "guerrilla doctor."

President Del Valle, a 49-year-old businessman involved in the sugar industry, granted to EXCELSIOR his first exclusive interview since his swearing in on Friday, 27 September. Asked if he thought that Mexico should be granted a moratorium in the payment of its foreign debt so that it can use those resources to rebuild its capital, Del Valle said:

"I really do not have enough facts to formulate an opinion on that, but I am sure that the international financial community understands the terrible situation that Mexico is experiencing and that it will hold discussions and negotiations with Mexico before forcing it to pay its debt in the terms that were established before the tragedy."

Regarding his government's handling of the Panamanian foreign debt, Del Valle commented that the domestic adjustments and reforms that the Panamanians feel are needed will be undertaken first and he added: "We will not renegotiate the debt if the terms adversely affect Panamanians."

The Panamanian president also said he is determined to fulfill the constitutional term for which Ardito Barletta was elected, in other words, 5 years. Therefore, Del Valle will be in office for 4 years and 15 days since Ardito Barletta still had 15 days to complete his first year in office. In this regard, he said that Ardito Barletta did not know how or could not unite the country after an electoral victory that was virtually a tie because Ardito Barletta won the presidency by only 1,213 votes.

"The country withdrew its support due to this lack of confidence in Ardito Barletta. He was unable to attract valuable members of the opposition who would have consolidated the regime."

[D'Estrabau] What are your personal relations with the Defense Forces?

[Del Valle] The Defense Forces are part of this government and are our traditional friends. The relations that unite us are cordial and close. The Defense Forces will support us just as we will support them.

[D'Estrabau] How are your relations with Gen Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander of the Defense Forces?

[Del Valle] Very good.

[D'Estrabau] Does Gen Noriega agree with the policies that you plan to establish with regard to Contadora and Central America?

[Del Valle] Totally. Gen Noriega has even visited Nicaragua recently in a personal effort to lead that country on the path of dialogue.

[D'Estrabau] As the situation in Central America develops and bearing in mind that U.S. President Ronald Reagan has defined Panama as a "border of the United States," do you think that the Torrijos-Carter treaties will be fulfilled and that Panama will recover sovereignty over the canal in the year 2000?

[Del Valle] Definitely. The United States is fulfilling its part of the treaties, even though, naturally, there are differences in the interpretation. The canal is a very emotional issue for Panamanians. The Panamanian people demand that the Torrijos-Carter treaties be fulfilled and they will be fulfilled.

[D'Estrabau] Is is true that the Panamanian Government is planning to build a new canal?

[Del Valle] The construction of a new canal is being jointly studied with the United States and Japan. We do not know if it will be on the basis of a double set of locks or a sea level canal. That will be in the future, but what will be done very soon is the widening of the so-called "Culebra Cut" that will double the flow of traffic in the canal.

[D'Estrabau] Mr President, will you send, as Ardito Parletta was asked, an initiative to the National Assembly on creating a special commission to investigate the assassination of Dr Hugo Spadafora?

[Del Valle] I believe that such a commission would not be in line with the best interests of the country. We Panamanians must learn to respect the character of the persons who are appointed to office.

"I will support the attorney general but Wilson Spadafora and all the Spadafora family will also have all my support so that they will be near the attorney general and help him resolve the assassination of Hugo Spadafora, a man whom we greatly admire because he was a Panamanian who fought for his ideals."

"I want to use this opportunity that EXCELSIOR has given me," Del Valle stated, "to express to Mexico the condolences of the Panamanian people and government over the tragedy that it suffered as a result of the 19 and 20 September earthquakes. We are ready to help in whatever way we can. Our relations with Mexico have always been of the greatest brotherhood and friendship." President Del Valle hesitated a little and then added with a smile: "Except when we are talking about boxing and basketball of course."

We asked President Del Valle about the fate of former President Ardito Barletta...is he under arrest? Will he be exiled? Will he be used in the new government?

[Del Valle] I briefly spoke over the telephone with former President Ardito Barletta yesterday. It seems he will be staying a few days in Panama, taking care of family affairs and then he will travel abroad.

COSTA RICA

RED CROSS BORDER POSTS ON 'STATE OF ALERT'

PA031851 Paris AFP in Spanish 1751 GMT 3 Oct 85

[Excerpt] San Jose, 3 Oct (AFP) -- The Costa Rican Red Cross has declared all its posts and units in the northern sector of the country on a "state of alert," because of increased combat activities in the southern region of Nicaraguan in the past few hours. The hospital at Ciudad Quesada, some 100 km from the border, also alerted its personnel for any eventuality, according to its director, Olivier Hidalgo.

These measures were adopted in view of reports that hundreds of Nicaraguan peasants who were travelling to Costa Rica as refugees had been trapped in the midst of clashes between the Sandinist Army and rebel forces. Costa Rican authorities along various points of the bordering San Juan River have confirmed that since last weekend heavy fighting has been observed on the Nicaraguan side. However, there is no information on whether the clashes are between the Sandinists and fighters of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance (ARDE) or troops of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN).

EL SALVADOR

DUARTE REPORTEDLY READY TO TRADE REBELS FOR DAUGHTER

PA060008 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2320 GMT 5 Oct 85

[By Cristina Hassun de Merino]

[Text] San Salvador, 5 Oct (ACAN-EFE) -- This afternoon Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte communicated with the kidnappers of his daughter, Ines Guadalupe, and informed them that he is ready to release 22 jailed guerrillas. Communication between the president and the kidnappers was established through a shortwave radio monitored by several newsmen. During the communication Duarte said that three of the rebels whose release is being demanded in exchange for his daughter's release have already been set free.

The leftists who were released 3 days ago are Carlos Antonio Zepeda and his wife, who left for Panama aboard a plane in which San Salvador Archbishop Arturo Rivera Y Damas was also traveling. Duarte told the kidnappers that the Zepeda couple was taken to the El Salvador airport in Comalapa by members of the International Red Cross. Margarita Elizabeth Vega was released the same day, but she opted to remain in El Salvador with her father and was taken to him by the International Red Cross.

Duarte provided the list of guerrillas who are ready to be released by the government in exchange for Ines Guadalupe Duarte, 35, who was kidnapped on 10 September in this capital. The list includes Maria Concepcion de Valladares, known in guerrilla circles as "Commander Nidia Diaz," high-ranking leader of the Revolutionary Party of Central American Workers (PRTC), which is part of the FMLN. Also included are Americo Mauro Araujo Ramirez, Rosa Elena Romero, Cesar Alberto Valle Hernandez, Hector Antonio Acevedo Moreno, Marco Antonio Espinoza Fiallos, Francisco Napoleon Hernandez, Joaquin Ahaguilares, Santiago Jesus Rauda Rauda, and Jose Ines Hernandez. Also on the list are Pilar Garcia Lobato, Rosario Barraza Moreno or Reynaldo Antonio Barraza Moreno, Alfredo Torres Lopez, Saul Castro Palomares, Carlos Enrique Vasquez Silva, Rafael Antonio Granadino Campos, and Carlos Lopez. The other rebels who will be released are Alex Marcelino Reyes, Oscar Armando Escobar Umana, Neftali Romero, Carlos Guardado, and Julio Romero Talavera.

Romero Talavera, the last man on the list, is a Costa Rican pilot who was captured by the Army in January 1981 in eastern Usulutan Department and was granted amnesty this week by the Legislative Assembly. All of these rebels are to be exchanged for Duarte's daughter and her friend Ana Cecilia Villeda, who was kidnapped at the same time, as well as for 23 mayors held by the guerrillas, according to the president.

After providing the names of the rebels the government is willing to surrender, President Duarte asked the kidnappers about his daughter's health and that of Ana Cecilia. The radio communication was cut at this point, although Duarte insisted on asking several times about Ines Guadalupe Duarte's health.

Negotiations 'Stalemated'

PA060015 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 2326 GMT 5 Oct 85

[Text] Culture and Communications Minister Julio Adolfo Rey Prendes has reported that the negotiations regarding the kidnapping of Mr Duarte's daughter are stalemated. (?He added) that the government is keeping silent in this regard so reports will not hinder the investigation. Therefore, we (words indistinct) the reason for the stagnation of the negotiations. He said that for its part, the government has not reported that the kidnappers are demanding political prisoners in exchange for the release of Ines Guadalupe Duarte Duran.

The latest contact with the kidnappers was Friday, and there have been no further contacts since that time. Regarding the identity of the captors, Rey Prendes said that the government has not said that Guerrillas are holding her. In this regard he said:

[Begin recording] We have only referred to the persons who have said who is holding her captive. [sentence as heard] We have referred to questions from newsmen and to statements by the archbishop of San Salvador, who said that there is no doubt that she is being held by the guerrillas of the FMLN. [end recording]

In addition, he noted that Julio Romero Talavera (?was set free) at the request of the Costa Rican Government, but that (?this) will be left in the hands of the Legislative Assembly.

Prisoners Await Release

PA070151 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 0000 GMT 7 Oct 85

[Text] Sources from Mariona Prison have disclosed that 21 [as heard] political prisoners will be released in the next few hours in exchange for Ines Guadalupe Duarte, daughter of President Jose Napoleon Duarte. No prisoner has left the prison yet, and those who will be rleeased are being kept in a security cell. Nothing has been said about President Duarte having been in contact with the Pedro Pablo Castillo Front. According to international news media, the last time President Duarte talked to the kidnappers was 1530 yesterday.

FMLN GUERRILLAS BEGIN 12TH SABOTAGE CAMPAIGN

PY051053 Paris AFP in Spanish 0410 GMT 5 Oct 85

[Text] San Salvador, 4 Oct (AFP) -- The eastern and northern regions of the country were shaken today with the start of another guerrilla sabotage campaign. The guerrillas shot up buses, dynamited electricity pylons, and paralyzed the transport system by digging trenches across the main highways.

The FMLN was able to make an effective start with this campaign, the 12th in 1985, despite military patrols along the Panamerican Highway from the coast to the east, the military route, and the Northern Trunk Highway.

Civilian sources stressed today that at Km 130 of the Panamerican Highway, at the turn-off to Lolotique in San Miguel, a passenger bus was shot up during the early morning hours. The secondary roads to San Miguel and Usulutan were also sabotaged, but by noon on Friday there had been no reports of deaths or injuries.

During the early morning hours buses were burned along the Northern Trunk Highway, and this caused a traffic jam between the city of Delgado and Apopa, 8 km north of the capital. Reports from the country's eastern region indicate that more cooperative workers have been captured. The Federation of Agrarian Cooperatives (Fenacoa) charges that the Atonal Battalion is responsible for capturing these workers. Fenacoa has reported that Jose Antonio Rodriguez, Jorge Rivera, and Jose Aguilar were captured in the region of San Agustin, Usulutan, where they were teaching adults to read and write. Two nuns and two priests were captured last week, also teaching adults in the northern region of the country, but they were released the same day.

In this capital the national police have released Salvador Juarez, a poet and writer, who is an official of the National University. He was detained on 24 September because it was suspected that he belonged to the Clara Elizabeth Ramirez Rebel Front. The release of Juarez, who has denied the charges, was obtained through the good offices of national and foreign individuals and organizations. The poet was handed over to the Archbishopric's legal office and to delegates of the International Red Cross Committee.

FMLN CAPTURES LA LAGUNA, EL PAISNAL MAYORS

PA031720 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 29 Sep 85

[Text] Attention, much attention to the following report. Attention, the FMLN has captured two more mayors. Much attention, the FMLN has detained two more mayors in the past few hours. One of them is (?Jose Alberto Rivera), mayor of La Laguna, Chalatenango Department. He was captured right in the middle of two battalions that Colonel Ochoa Perez maintains in La Laguna. In addition, during the past few hours the mayor of El Paisnal, San Salvador Department, was also captured.

KIDNAPPED CHALATENANGO MAYORS ISSUE COMMUNIQUE

PA032330 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 29 Sep 85

[Communique from the mayors captured by the FMLN in Chalatenango Department to the Christian Democratic Party and Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte; in Chalatenango, 24 September -- read by announcer]

[Text] Communique No 1 to the people and the Christian Democratic Party.

We, the mayors of Chalatenango Department who are being held as prisoners of war by the FMLN, wish to state to the Christian Democratic Party's National Political Committee and the people that because of the political-military situation that prevails in our country we are still being detained. Consequently, we demand that the party's membership at the national level make the necessary contacts on our behalf.

1. During the political campaign, we pledged that if we achieved the majority of deputies at the National Legislative Assembly, we would attain peace through negotiations -- through the dialogue which is our people's main goal -- but nothing has been done in this regard.

2. Twenty-three mayors have been detained as prisoners of war. Each one has left his home without protection. Sons are studying and wives are crying because they do not have the daily means to support our children. Our families' main concerns are the bombings in rural areas, because they fear being killed by a bomb.

3. What is the political price of the mayors who were elected by the people and were deceived, along with the people, by the demagoguery of the Christian Democratic Party, which constantly mentioned the word peace? Now we feel frustrated because the government platform which we defended during the political campaigns has been mocked.

4. We, the mayors who held posts in the troubled zones, have realized that we do not want to be local government representatives, because there exists another military force, the FMLN.

5. We beg the Christian Democratic Party's membership at the national level to support this communique.

[Signed] Hernando Rodgiguez, mayor of Dulce Nombre de Maria; Hernan Lopez Lopez, mayor of Santa Rita; Jose Tobias Molina, mayor of San Francisco Morazan; Luis Alonso Leon, mayor of San Fernando; Jose Antonio Pereira, mayor of Comalapa; Francisco Melara, acting mayor of Aguas Caliente.

[Signed] Chalatenango, 24 September 1985

Second Communique Refutes Ochoa

PA060419 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish El Salvador 2300 GMT 4 Oct 85

[Communique No 2 by the mayors held by the FMLN issued in Chalatenango 1 October]

[Text] We, the mayors of the municipalities of La Laguna, Compalapa, Santa Rita, Dulce Nombre de Maria, San Francisco Morazan, San Rafael, San Fernondo, and Aguas Calientes, all of which are located in Chalatenango Department, with great concern outline the following to the rank and file of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] and to the people:

1. The reports by Colonel Sigifredo Ochoa Perez to the local and international press on 30 September to the effect that we were captured by the guerrillas while attending a meeting north of Dulce Nombre de Maria, to which we had supposedly been called by the FMLN and about which we had not informed Col Ochoa, are totally false.

2. As we have asserted, we were captured in our homes and offices, the last of us having been captured on the road from Chalatenango to San Salvador. This can be attested to by the inhabitants of the towns and the employees of those offices who witnessed our capture, because the FMLN carried out these actions publicly.

3. Col Ochoa has made these statements, which cast doubt on our status as war prisoners of the FMLN, in order to save face, and we view this action as tendentious and irresponsible.

4. We askthat the PDC rank and file demand from the Duarte administration the suspension of all operations and bombings in the rural areas of Chalatenango. The thought that we may be hit by a bomb or that the forces under the command of Col Ochoa may commit an irresponsible action against us is a source of utmost concern to our families. These doubts have arisen ever since this gentleman made these false statements.

5. We reassert that the FMLN is treating us well and that we have not been subjected to any sort of physical or moral torture.

6. We also ask that President Duarte's administration, the PDC rank and file, the International Red Cross, and the San Salvador Archbishopric guarantee our physical and moral integrity and that of our families the day we are liberated. At the same time, we remind the PDC leadership that we are heads of households of limited economic resources. Therefore, we demand that they help us financially and that the money be delivered to our families.

7. We ask that the rank and file and the people demand from the Duarte administration the search for dialogue and negotiation with the FMLN that was promised during the election campaign and that the necessary conditions be established to obtain our hoped-for release.

[Signed] Hernan Lopez Lopez, mayor of Santa Rita; Fernando Rodriguez, mayor of Dulce Nombre de Maria; Jose Tobias Molina, mayor of San Rafael; Felipe de Jesus Lopez, mayor of San Francisco Morazan; Jose Antonio Pereira, mayor of Comalapa; Jose Estriberto Rivera, mayor of La Laguna; Francisco Melare Valle, mayor of [words indistinct] Aguas Calientes; and Luis Alonso Leon, mayor of San Fernando.

GUATEMALA

NEW ECONOMY, FINANCE MINISTERS TAKE OFFICE

PA042315 Guatemala City Radio Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 3 Oct 85

[Excerpts] The new economy and finance ministers, the new deputy economy minister, and the new presidents of the Bank of Guatemala and the National Housing Bank took office today. They will occupy those posts for the remaining 100 days of the current administration. Economy Minister Ariel Rivera was appointed new finance minister, and Commerce Director Jose Herrera Ovalle deputy economy minister. These changes, which are considered the most important since mid-July, were brought about by the resignations of the two most important members of the economic cabinet: Oscar Alvarez Marroquin as president of the Bank of Guatemala and the Monetary Board and Armando Gonzalez Campo as finance minister. Both men advocated a standard exchange rate ruled out by the government for the time being.

The president of the Bank of Guatemala is also the president of the Monetary Board. The president of the National Housing Bank, Colonel Jorge Luis Monzon, was appointed to that dual post. Joaquin Martinez Mansilla was appointed new National Housing Bank president. Col Monzon, the new president of the Bank of Guatemala, made an initial statement following his appointment, denying that the renegotiation of the foreign debt necessarily involves the creation of new taxes.

[Begin Monzon recording] I would like to point out that the renegotiation of the debt does not necessarily imply a fiscal reorganization involving the creation of new taxes. This depends on the kind of debt. Oscar Alvarez said that efforts are already being made. He was successful in two of the institutions he visited. [end recording]

MEJIA URGES BISHOPS TO HAVE FAITH IN ELECTIONS

PA052041 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1916 GMT 5 Oct 85

[Text] Guatemala City, 5 Oct (ACAN-EFE) -- General Oscar Mejia Victores, Guatemalan head of state, today asked the church to have confidence in the 3 November presidential elections. "We have already given proof that we want to lead Guatemala to a real democracy," the head of state said, in reference to the 1 July 1984 constitutent assembly elections which observers have described as "clean and honest."

The Guatemalan Episcopal Conference issued a pastoral letter this week telling the people to vote, but at the same time expressing concern that the elections might be manipulated. The Guatemalan bishops said they were concerned over the fact that the approximately 800,000 members of civil self-defense patrols could be influenced to vote for a specific candidate.

"I respect the opinion of the Episcopal Conference because it is trying to provide guidance on the elections, but the fact is that it is following the example of St. Thomas, who said that he would not believe until he saw proof," the head of state said. If none of the eight candidates participating in the elections obtain an absolute majority (half plus one of the votes) in the first elections, a runoff election will be held on 8 December between the two tickets with the highest number of votes.

HONDURAS

TROOPS ON 'RED ALERT' AS CONTADORA MEETING OPENS

PA061808 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1658 GMT 6 Oct 85

[By Armando Cerrato]

[Excerpt] Tegucigalpa, 6 Oct (ACAN-EFE) -- The Honduran Army has put its frontline troops at the Nicaraguan border on "red" alert hours before the beginning of a meeting in Panama of plenipotentiary representatives of the Contadora Group and the Central American countries. An officer on the Honduran Armed Forces General Staff, who asked not to be identified, told ACAN-EFE that "the alert was issued because every time a Contadora Group meeting is about to begin or has taken place the Sandinists attack Honduras, using any pretext they can find."

The officer said: "Apparently the Nicaraguans do not want the signing of a peace document for Central America with all the consequences it would bring, and by attacking Honduras or Costa Rica they have a pretext to boycott the agreements that are achieved." He also explained: "The Honduran Army is tired of contributing victims to the whims of the Sandinists and will exercise its inherent right to legitimate defense in the face of any act of aggression by Nicaragua."

The military source indicated: "We are dutybound to defend our sovereignty and territorial integrity and to protect our civilian population on the border, which has suffered the most as a result of the Nicaraguan military aggressions." The officer stressed that since 1979, when the Sandinists took power in Nicaragua, until the present there have been close to 400 military incidents at the border in which Honduras has sustained close to 20 dead and more than 200 wounded.

Most of the victims have been Honduran civilians surprised by shellings and heavy machinegun fire, as well as by several incursions by Sandinist "push and pull" [preceding words in English] aircraft and Sandinist helicopters, according to reports by this country's government. Others have stepped on mines hidden by Sandinist sappers in the border area, inside Honduran territory.

Generally, every time the Nicaraguan Army stages an action that in one way or another has a negative effect on the property or population of Honduras, it claims that it was staged in legitimate defense of its interests because anti-Sandinist groups that receive support from Honduran troops are operating in Honduras.

FOUR KIDNAPPED CITIZENS RETURNED BY EPS

PA040459 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 3 Oct 85 p 46

[Text] Honduran military authorities received yesterday at Las Manos customs post in El Paraiso Department four Hondurans who had been kidnapped in national territory by troops of the Sandinist People's Army [EPS]. The turnover took place between 0800 and 0900 on the part of the Nicaraguans stationed in the eastern border sector. Those returned to Honduras were identified as Alberto Rodas Bustillo, Concepcion Bustillo Rodriguez, Francisco, Bustillo, and Luis Alonso Mendoza Estrada.

The first three were kidnapped by EPS troops last 30 September in the Honduran township of La Lodosa, only 4 km from the border with Nicaragua, while Mendoza Estrada was kidnapped 34 days ago, authorities of our country have confirmed. Last night those released by the Sandinists were questioned by Honduran military authorities. Only Francisco Bustillo, a child who was one of the first three kidnapped on 30 September, was released. After being interrogated the 3 adults will return to their homes.

NICARAGUA

ORTEGA CONDEMNS U.S. POLICY ON 'FACE THE PEOPLE'

PA052124 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1755 GMT 5 Oct 85

[Closing statement by President Daniel Ortega during a "Face the People" program held at a soap factory in Granada with representatives of workers of Region 4 -- live]

[Excerpt] With us today is the Nicaraguan ambassador to several African countries, Companero David McField. [applause] He is ambassador to eight African countries. He is here with us because in the next few days we might receive the visit of an African leader. Speaking about Africa, we cannot fail to note the struggle being waged by the African people in Namibia and South Africa. We bring up South Africa because a handful of racist whites are oppressing the black population of that country. They exploit and discriminate against the black people. In other words, the people are oppressed and discriminated against by the whites in their own country and on their own land. The whites tell them: You cannot go there, you cannot go to such a school, you cannot use that transportation. There is a terrible official and institutionalized discrimination that has been condemned by all the countries of the world. The people are fighting courageously against that situation of oppression.

The U.S. Government is an accomplice to that brutal policy against the South African people. When the U.S. officials speak about this topic, and they have been asked why they do not apply sanctions or act against the South African Government like they act against Nicaragua, they say that the attitude of the South African Government is different from that of the Nicaraguan Government because the South African Government is interested in improving the people's situation. The U.S. policy is thus once again unmasked before the international public. It is a policy that wants to destroy a democratic, popular revolution of the workers -- a revolution that does not discriminate against anyone. Meanwhile, the U.S. Government supports a criminal and brutal government like that of South Africa.

When we speak about the problems of transportation and of the war, you probably know to what country we are referring -- to the country that is waging the war against the Nicaraguans. That country, that government, is the one that supports the racist regime of South Africa.

When the Israeli Government, in an adventurous action that violated international law and relations among states and governments, launched a bombing operation against Tunisia, in an attempt to assassinate PLO leaders, including PLO President Yasir 'Arafat, the U.S. Government expressed support for that terrorist action. It turns out that the U.S. Government participated in support of the terrorist operation. This has provoked very strong condemnation from the world that learned of this through the Security Council. When the United States justifies this type of terrorist action in that region, it is also trying to justify and legalize the terrorist actions it has already committed against Nicaragua and those that it might commit against Nicaragua.

The U.S. President, the secretary of state, and military chiefs have already threatened to carry out against Nicaragua the type of bombing launched against Tunisia. On several occasions they have threatened to bomb Nicaragua. They have said that if Nicaragua brings in combat airplanes they will bomb Nicaragua. They have stated this. If Nicaragua appears involved in an action in Central America that the United States considers of a terrorist nature, they will also take that type of reprisal against Nicaragua. Therefore, part of the arbitrary, illegal, and disrespectful U.S. behavior toward international law was unmasked when the United States supported that adventurous action against Tunisia and when it supports the racist South African regime.

We have a war. We have transportation problems. We have war problems. We have economic problems as a result of the debt and international economic relations. We have come up with some figures. At this time if we could sell or have in our hands something that we do not -- that is the cotton harvest, given that the 123,000 manzanas of cultivated cotton that we have could yield approximately 10.7 quintals of fiber per manzana -- we could have a [word indistinct] of 320,000 quintals. Sold at current prices, we would collect $17 million less than our estimate, based on cotton prices at the time we drafted our economic plan when we estimated we would sow 150,000 manzanas of cotton. We made efforts to sow 150,000 manzanas of cotton, but we encountered the problems of the drought and the plague. Currently we have only 123,000 manzanas of cotton. We do not know how much more damage this plague will have on the yield from the fields. In addition to this problem of nature we must face injustices in economic relations. We calculated the price of a quintal of cotton, which already had a reduced price, at $60; based on this we would collect an additional $18 million. That cotton has not yet been sold, but the truth is that the price of cotton has continued to deteriorate. Now we must subtract $17 million from optimistic estimates involving a cotton harvest totalling 1.32 million quintals.

Therefore, we are facing an economic problem: the problem of unjust international economic relations afflicting all Latin American countries. We are facing the debt problem; actually an unpayable debt. We will never be able to pay that debt. The great sacrifice of Latin American countries and the great sacrifice of Nicaragua has been to pay the interest on the famous debt. They are making great sacrifices to pay interest. Other countries have been lucky, and as they pay interest they receive loans. Nicaragua has not been that lucky because there is a political will on the part of the United States to destroy Nicaragua. That country exerts pressure on our creditors, and, despite our efforts to keep the interest payments on our debt up to date, we have not received one penny from our creditors. Our creditors have refused to give us loans.

Within normal financial relations, if a debtor is paying its interest it has the right to receive loans and financing from the creditor. This has not applied to Nicaragua, which has been making special efforts throughout all of these years. In addition, the supply of foreign currency has been decreasing.

The spokesmen for capitalism and exploitation here in Nicaragua -- those who write in LA PRENSA and are organized in COSEP [Higher Council of Private Enterprise] who are identified with the Somozists -- are claiming wrongly that the crisis is the result of the chaotic situation brought about by workers in all enterprises, because capitalists do not run them anymore, and therefore those enterprises are failing and producing less. That is what they are now claiming. They claim that companies are currently producing less and facing all kinds of problems such as the scarcity of raw materials, spare parts, tires, machinery, and equipment due to the poor administration of the revolution, which has given control of companies to the workers. They believe that as the participation of the workers in a company becomes greater, production will deteriorate even more. This is their thesis to justify their claims that aggression is needed and that the revolution must be toppled to restore the previous state, but this time without Somoza. This is what they are claiming. This is the claim they repeat over and over to confuse the workers themselves.

The workers are not so [words indistinct]. We have spoken about the need for workers to increase their participation in the productive effort of all aspects of the private sector. The workers have also advocated a better integration in the efforts of publicly-owned companies. We are sure that this suggestion by the workers, to the extent that it is effectively implemented, will allow companies to operate more efficiently. As a result of this, workers are aware of the problems facing their company, how much is produced, and the destination of the wealth produced by them, and they know where their efforts go. To the extent that each worker becomes more aware of the production problems in each company, he can better and more effectively make contributions to his company.

Of course, we are facing the opposition of some private producers and businessmen, who refuse to give this participation to the workers. Often businessmen think that in this way workers will not know how much they are making. However, workers now can and should find out how much they are making, although that is not the essential problem. The essential problem is learning how to really tackle a company's problems to ensure that it will operate more efficiently, correcting mistakes in time; pinpointing responsibilities such as being able to determine why a spare part is missing or why production is dropping; determining whether a problem lies in administration, undisciplined workers, or lack of equipment maintenance, and who was responsible. There is no doubt that the incorporation of workers strengthens and ensures production. That is why we have supported, defended, and will continue to defend the inclusion of the workers' right to participate in the production effort when the constitution is drafted. [applause]

We have touched on the problem of [word indistinct], we have also discussed wages. We prefer to discuss supply when we speak of salaries, because real salaries depend on supply. The Labor Ministry is making efforts and will continue to make efforts in the implementation of [word indistinct]. However, we believe that in this initial phase the main effort should be the [word indistinct] aimed at correcting existing mistakes to restructure those with salaries under 10,000 cordovas, which is the most affected group. We believe that we must begin here. We will not begin by reviewing the problem of those earning more than 10,000 cordovas; we will do that later. We must begin with those earning less than 10,000 cordovas, because they are the ones facing the most difficult conditions.

Our problem is that we are facing a stiuation of matching a great amount of money with a limited supply of basic goods. The supply of basic goods is limited, while the money in circulation is vast. We are also facing price speculation. Occasionally state companies also follow the concept of trade; they link state companies with other interests. That is perfectly understandable. There is a basic difference between a private businessman who speculates with prices to enrich himself at the expense of the people's needs and the mistakes taking place in some state companies which, although they do not charge the prices charged by speculating businessmen, do make profits from the commercialization of products and raise their prices too much. Clearly, the difference is that a state company's profit does not go into the pocket of the company's administrator or contribute to his personal enrichment, but is invested in the enlargement of the company. The administrator will use this profit to buy more vehicles to improve the operation of the company -- whether it is a distributor, a transportation company, or a storage center -- or to buy more work equipment.

Whey they increase prices to obtain a profit this is what they have in mind. However, in our meeting with labor leaders a few weeks ago we told them that the Interior Trade Ministry had been asked to limit itself to obtaining revenues to pay only operational costs in all of these commercial operations. The ministry was told not to think of making even a penny, but to simply limit itself to paying operational costs. They must limit themselves to making enough to pay transportation costs, wages for personnel involved in the operation, and other operation costs. They were told to cut those profits that have never reached 30 to 50 percent.

We do not know what the profit margin has been on items, including staple products. The Interior Trade Ministry has begun to implement this decision. However, we believe that the decision must be more far-reaching. If we add the profit margin on to a product after paying all of the operation costs -- production, marketing, transportion -- the price of the product will be higher by the time it reaches the worker. We must revise that policy, because it is not feasible under the present state of affairs.

When we speak of the salary problem we are called upon to first increase productivity and discipline. We must also guarantee that staple products reach workers at prices that are just. Many prices have been unfair, while others have been fair. That is a consequence of the trend toward commercialization that state enterprises have fallen into and which private enterprise unquestionably falls into. If we succeed in lowering the prices of staple products and assure their distribution to workers through proper distribution channels, that will truly increase workers' real salaries. That is how workers' real salaries are increased. It is very simple to increase the nominal salary of workers, and this must be repeated and said without fear. That does not demand a great effort, but it does not resolve the problem either. We see enemies of the revolution who adopt demagogic stances from right-wing and extreme left-wing positions that appear to defend the need to increase salaries 100, 200, or 1,000 percent.

This is ill-intentioned. We cannot believe that they are so stupid or naive as not to realize that these problems are not resolved through increases in nominal salaries anywhere in the world. We gain nothing by increasing nominal salaries if we do not control the prices of products and their distribution. If that happens, the entire effort is to the advantage of speculators, and the product ends up in the hands of speculators who set whatever price they want for any given item.

Other problems have been mentioned here to which Companero Federico [not further identified] has already responded, as well as the ministers, deputy ministers, and officials of the revolutionary government. We believe that the economic efforts that are being made at this time are instrumental with regard to the expectations of our enemies. All of the problems that have been discussed here demand greater cohesiveness from us, greater unity, greater correlation, and a better coordination of efforts in production work. All of us -- workers, technicians, managers, and revolutionary government officials -- must join efforts to win the economic battle in view of the imperialist aggression. Winning the economic battle in view of the imperialist aggression means that we must respond with more discipline, efficiency, and responsibility -- in the full sense of the word -- to the requirements posed by a time as difficult as this.

We have spoken of an economy of survival to win the war, of resisting to win the war. The economy is vital to win the war. We must produce amid great difficulties. Everyone must produce and make fewer mistakes, because an error by one affects the interests of the revolution, which are the interests of the people as a whole. An error by one sector does not affect only one sector but the entire effort to keep up production. Therefore, this is a decisive battle. The enemy hopes to be able to destroy, ruin, and scuttle Nicaragua's economy. This is what the United States wants. This is the goal of the United States. By combining military aggression, the ill effects of the military aggression on our economy, and other elements that work against our economy such as the international crisis, the foreign debt, unfair trade terms, and its efforts to block cooperation with Nicaragua, the United States expects the Nicaraguan people to turn their backs on the revolution. This is the U.S. strategy. They want to destroy, to scuttle, Nicaragua's economy. That is why the efforts of the workers, the technicians, the managers, and the government officials must be aimed in one direction. No one can take the liberty of going his own way, because if we do so we will facilitate the enemy's actions against our economy. We must join efforts to march in one direction. We must act the way the Nicaraguan people are acting, the way the workers are acting, and the way our Army is acting in the military field. Our people have been able to organize themselves so formidably and in such a disciplined way in the military field that only defeat awaits the aggressors against our people. [applause, shouts]

Today more than ever, complying with the Patriotic Military Service [SMP] is a need and an obligation of the Nicaraguan people, of all Nicaraguans. All of those who live here in Nicaragua are obliged to respect the country's laws, the revolution's laws, and the call for joining the SMP. The United States has also tried to weaken this front. It has tried to turn the SMP into a front for actions against the revolution. The United States, which during its criminal and immoral war on Vietnam forced U.S. youths to go to that distant land to fight that completely unfair war, has criticized the Nicaraguan people's right to organize themselves and to heed the call to the SMP in order to defend our country and the revolution. Here in Nicaragua some people have become accomplices in this campaign of Yankee imperialism. They have imagined that they can fail to show respect for the SMP, the revolution, and the revolutionary state. Of course, these same people never dared act against Somoza with the degree of bellicosity with which they are acting against the revolution.

Many of those people who are campaigning against the SMP were committed to the Somozist guard and were even chaplains in Somoza's guard. Some of those who speak against the SMP want to manipulate the Nicaraguan people's feelings.

We met on Friday, or rather Thursday, with religious leaders of the CEPAD [Evangelical Committee for Development Aid], of the evangelical churches in our country. This demonstrates the religious liberty that exists in Nicaragua and that while there are Catholics, there are many Nicaraguans who practice other religions. At this meeting we explained that the SMP calls us to join in the country's defense, because this is really in favor of peace for the Nicaraguan people. The sooner we defeat the present form of war imposed on us by the United States, through the mercenaries, the closer we will be to peace. To the extent that the U.S. war strategists see that in our cities -- in Granada, Masaya, Rivas, Diriamba, Jinotepe, Leon, and in all our cities and all of Nicaragua -- there is organized participation by all Nicaraguans, that all Nicaraguans are combat-ready, prepared to confront and defeat an eventual Yankee intervention -- which would be another form of war that the United States could impose on us -- then they will be forced to think twice before invading here. [applause]

This means that the better we maintain our cities' defense and the more the people participate in the cities' defense, the more difficult it will be for a Yankee military invasion to take place. It will be more difficult because the Yankees would know that many of them would have to die in the effort to occupy our cities. However, if they see that our defenses are weak and they believe that we are badly organized, they might fall into the stupidity of launching an interventionist action against Nicaragua, under the mistaken idea that because the people are not well-organized they will find no resistance.

To the extent that they see the people organized, this other type of war -- which would be a direct Yankee intervention with their troops -- is put off. To the extent that we strengthen the SMP, the present war imposed on us by the United States is defeated and will continue to be defeated until it is totally annihilated. Therefore, the SMP, Nicaraguans' participation in all forms of defense in the entire country, plays an important role for peace. This is what we explained to the CEPAD leaders.

Religious leaders usually find it difficult to understand this kind of call, but we gave example of many countries in the world that have military service, countries of various politics and ideologies. In Israel the government, which (?launched) this aggression, has a military service of 3 or 3 and 1/2 years; all citizens must serve their time in the military, the 3 or 3 and 1/2 years, and after that they must be prepared for mobilization at any time until age 65. In Nicaragua we are defending ourselves from the aggression of that military power called the United States of America. We have a great challenge ahead of us -- turning the economic struggle front into a powerful, solid, and strong front such as we have already made the front for the military defense of the revolution. [applause]

This is a challenge for all Nicaraguans. We already have a solid and strong instrument in the revolution's military defense. Now we need to strengthen and consolidate the instrument of the revolution's economic defense.

This is our responsibility, the responsibility of the revolution's political leaders, of the companeros who are at the head of ministries, of the companeros who are at the head of firms, of directors of companies, of administrators, of technicians, of the workers, and of the labor leaders. It is the responsibility of all Nicaraguans, and we are certain that we will also defeat them on that front. We are already closing ranks on that front, and we will succeed in this unjust war imposed on us by the United States until we achieve peace. Then our country will be in another type of situation that will allow us to speak, not of a survival economy, but of an economy of national reconstruction. This will surely be the economy we will have to talk about when we decidedly defeat the imperialist aggression. [applause]

ORTEGA INTERVIEWED ON COSTA RICAN TV PROGRAM

PA060409 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 4 Oct 85 P 5

[Excerpts] Speaking to a national audience via Costa Rica's Channel 2 Television, Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega, the president of the Republic, has reiterated to the government of that country Nicaragua's willingness to sign agreements to ensure stability on the common border and the best possible relations between the two countries.

Daniel Ortega replied to about 20 questions from Rodolfo Cerda, host of that station's Foro 2 program. In his first 10 questions Cerda tried to force his guest to say that the revolution in Nicaragua is socialist in nature.

The Nicaraguan head of state reminded him that in Nicaragua one cannot make up interclassist contradictions. In this regard, Ortega said that there is no industrial development generating a powerful proletariat. He pointed out that the peasants make up the major social force and that there is a large group of artisans.

He explained that the Sandinist revolution aims to give privileges to workers and peasants, because they are the main producers of social wealth, without isolating other social sectors. Ortega pointed out that this creates a struggle between the selfishness and individualism of those who refuse to share their wealth as Christ wanted.

He told the program host that the armed struggle is not peculiar to Nicaragua and reminded him that the United States achieved its independence from Great Britain after a war and that Costa Rica resorted to an armed struggle.

The president displayed infinite patience in the face of the insistence of the host during more than 1 hour in which only he spoke and tried to label the revolution.

Ortega listed a mixed economy, political pluralism, and nonalignment as the revolution's main guidelines. He said they are not part of a tactical position but rather in keeping with Nicaragua's particular conditions, its economic development, tradition, history, customs, etc. It is based on Sandinist thought.

As for the democracy practiced in the country, Ortega pointed out that Nicaragua is the only nation in the world in which the rulers meet with the people every week to listen to their criticisms, concerns, and aspirations.

Regarding the U.S. pretext that Nicaragua grants logistical support to the Salvadoran rebels, Ortega said that his government has proposed to Costa Rica and other Central American Governments the signing of a treaty ensuring that no support will be given to terrorists and other armed groups aiming to topple legitimately established governments that reflect the popular will.

Ortega also said that one cannot bring about a revolution where conditions for such a revolution are nonexistent. He pointed out that if the United States, instead of supporting Somoza, had promoted democracy in Nicaragua, no revolution would have taken place, adding that there would be no armed struggle in El Salvador if that country were not the victim of decades of brutal injustice.

In regretting the death of two Costa Rican Civil guardsmen in Las Crucitas, Ortega said that the Nicaraguan and Costa Rican peoples are victims of external forces financing mercenary terrorist groups to create conflicts between the two countries leading to the intervention of U.S. troops.

He again appealed to the patriotic feelings of President Luis Alberto Monge and leaders of other Central America countries not to lend themselves to Washington's warmongering maneuvers and not to become traitors to their own people and the peoples of Central and Latin America.

After the interview international journalists who watched the program at Government House commented that the program host took longer to ask questions than was allowed for President Ortega to answer.

Urges Central American Unity

PA042015 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 4 Oct 85

[Excerpts] President Commander Daniel Ortega yesterday answered a number of biased and hostile questions during an interview granted to Rodolfo Cerda, a journalist of Costa Rica's Channel 2. In the interview, which was broadcast live and direct to the Costa Rican people, the Nicaraguan president was asked whether Sandinism is conceived within Marxist-Leninist theory. He replied that Marxism is a universal theory, just like Christianity and liberalism, and that a universal theory is necessary because the basic principles of each process are derived from it in accordance with the reality of each process.

Cerda asked President Ortega about the concept of democracy, indicating that in Nicaragua there is talk of democracy but never of personal freedom, freedom of the press, etc. To this President Ortega said that when one speaks of democracy this necessarily includes freedom because one thing involves the other. He gave the examples of the "Face the People" programs, the existence of the newspaper LA PRENSA, and political pluralism. Mr Cerda insisted that there is no freedom of expression because press censorship exists in Nicaragua. To this, the member of the FSLN National Directorate replied that despite the censorship, LA PRENSA is able to express criticism. He also explained that as long as imperialist aggression exists, censorship of the communications media in Nicaragua will exist.

President Ortega said that the great responsibility of the Central American presidents is to win the battle for peace and to prevent war. Nicaragua wants good relations and peace with the Costa Rican people and government. In light of this, we want to tell them that all Costa Ricans who wish to come to Nicaragua can do so without visas.

[Begin Ortega recording] What we have done is to appeal to the patriotic feelings of Central America, because there is great pressure from the United States to involve the Central American countries in a larger-scale confrontation which would not make any Central American people proud. I do not think it would make Nicaragua proud to win a war against Honduras or Costa Rica. I do not think it would make Costa Rica or Honduras proud to win a war against Nicaragua. That is not the case. The best war that the Central Americans can win is the achievement of peace. What we can be most proud of is the achievement of peace. The greatest responsibility that we Central American leaders have is the achievement of peace and the prevention of war. That is the great responsibility that we have. [end recording]

MINISTRY REPORTS ATTACKS FROM COSTA RICA

PA050011 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 4 Oct 85

[Text] Counterrevolutionary groups have attacked Sandinist People's Army [IPS] troops with 57-mm cannons and rifles from Costa Rica. At least two attacks have been staged against Nicaragua in the last 48 hours by mercenaries located in the areas of Fatima, Sarapiqui, in Costa Rican territory, and in front of La Penca, Foreign Ministry sources have reported.

Counterrevolutionary groups opened fire Wednesday on a Sandinist Air Force helicopter that was flying over Nicaraguan territory in the area of La Esperanza. The Foreign Ministry source added that the mercenaries were located in positions in Fatima, Sarapiqui, Costa Rica.

The second attack took place yesterday, when counterrevolutionary groups fired from Costa Rican territory at EPS troops mobilizing in the area of La Penca, in Nicaraguan territory. The attack lasted for over 15 minutes and the counterrevolutionaries used 57-mm cannons and rifles. The Foreign Ministry sources noted that the EPS troops did not respond to the attack in an effort to prevent incidents between the two countries.

UNIDENTIFIED PLANES OVERFLY BORDER AREA

PA041833 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 Oct 85

[Text] Unidentified planes frequently overfly the areas bordering Nicaragua known as Conchito de Pocosol and Curena de Pital, residents in Costa Rica reported today. The planes arrive at least 3 times a week, between 2200 and 0200, overflying the border area in the northern San Carlos Canton, Alajuela Province.

Major Luis Alfaro of the Rural Police confirmed the reports, which prove that counterrevolutionary groups are receiving food, ammunition, and other military supplies by air.

ORTEGA ISSUES DECREE ON C.A. CUSTOMS AGREEMENT

PA040323 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 2 Oct 85 p 12

[Presidential decree]

[Text] The Nicaraguan president, considering:

I. That the Central American Tariff and Customs Agreement signed and ratified by Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica went into effect for the four signatory states on 17 September this year;

II. That the Central American Tariff and Customs Council and its resolution No 2 (Council - 1 - 85) issued on 17 September this year resolved to approve Annex "A" of the agreement on the Central American Tariff and Customs Agreement: "Central American Import Tariff," which, according to this resolution, would go into effect on 1 October 1985, once the internal requirements for its implementation were fulfilled;

III. That for Nicaragua application of Annex "B" of the agreement: "Central American Legislation of the Customs Value of Merchandise," is directly related to the implementation of Annext "A";

IV. That it is necessary to adopt special measures to adequately attend to problems that emerge from the application of the agreement

Therefore; in use of his faculties, and in accordance with Article 24 of the Central American Tariff and Customs Agreement, the president decrees:

Article 1. Resolution No 2 of the Central American Tariff and Customs Agreement called "Central American Import Tariff" is ratified, except for section 2, referring to the date of implementation, which was established in the City of Managua, Nicaragua, on 17 September 1985.

Article 2. Temporarily postponed for a maximum period of up to 3 months are the Central American Agreement on the Application of Import Taxes and its protocols, the import tariffs established in the Central American Industrial Integration Agreement and its protocols, the Central American Tax Incentives Agreements for Industrial development and its protocols, including the economic stabilization tax and national industrial development laws where applicable.

Article 3. The finance minister is authorized to issue orders that will allow the users and the customs service to be flexible in the management of the instruments of the new agreement during the 3 months following the implementation of Annexes "A" and "B" of the agreement.

Article 4. The present decree goes into effect as of its publication in any form of collective media, even though it will be published later in LA GAZETA, the official newspaper.

Given in the City of Managua on 1 October 1985.

"For peace...all against the agression."

[Signed] Daniel Ortega Saavedra, president of the Republic

CASTRO SPEECH COMMEMORATES CDR ANNIVERSARY

FL290240 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0122 GMT 29 Sep 85

[Speech by President Fidel Castro at a ceremony commemorating the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Committee for the Defense of the Revolution, held at Havana's Karl Marx Theater -- live]

[Text] Dear Committee for the Defense of the Revolution [CDR] comrades:

Maybe 10 or 15 years ago we would have commemorated this anniversary in a greater way at the Square of the Revolution considering it is the 25th anniversary. However, because our work and responsibilities have increased and because we have made efforts to use the people's time and energy more efficiently, mass activities have been reduced limiting them to practically two occasions, 26 July and 1 January. As you know, such an important occasion as the triumph of the revolution is not commemorated, that is, it is not commemorated with public activities but it coincides with a non-working day, with the first of the year, and we have always believed it would not be fair to interfere with the people's non-working day, that holiday, despite that this revolution constituted a rare privilege and this revolution has many coincidences. It was a rare privilege to triumph on the first of the year [applause], therefore, we are the first revolution to triumph on 1 January [applause]. That is a good sign. Also today, Armando [Acosta] reminded us of other coincidences on how the revolution coincides, how the day of the creation or the anniversary, the 25th anniversary of the CDR coincides with the 40th anniversary of fascism's defeat [applause] and the 60th anniversary of the first communist party of Cuba, as he said, the fertile seed of revolutionary ideas. [applause].

That happens with the usual events which last forever; the revolution and the CDR. Also we almost commemorated the 25th anniversary a day earlier, on the 27th. Some may ask themselves why we were going to commemorate this anniversary on the 27th. But it coincided with the arrival of a very dear foreign leader, very esteemed, valuable, Comrade Julius Nyerere, Tanzania's president [applause] whose arrival in Cuba coincided with the 28th, he had it in his schedule. Usually, when a head of state travels he has to adhere strictly to his schedule and we were not going to tell him to come 1 day later, however it just happened that Comrade Julius Nyerere had to postpone his visit in the country 1 more day for other reasons. He arrives tomorrow afternoon. He was going to arrive today. So, we who had changed the date [of the event] for the 27th suggested it be changed again so it would be more legitimate, more accurate. This is the reason for those rumors -- I am not going to say those noises, because noises have had connotations [crowd laughs] -- those rumors that this event was going to be held on the 27th and then it was changed again for the 28th. That is the reason, and we are glad because in this way you could calmly wait for the 28th. If we had held the event, [on the 27th] even though it was earlier, it would not have been the most convenient time for national television viewers. I believe everything worked out satisfactorily.

Comrade Armando [Acosta] reminded us with his emotional words the circumstances in which this organization was created. He explained it in detail, so it is not necessary that I repeat it. He was very nice when he remembered the words which were said on that day, totally unplanned, with those noises in the background, in the heat of revolutionary militancy, and of our people's anger -- with many things in history which emerge from the response to the enemy's actions.

He remembered very well what he called three great noises: the noises of the 28th, which created the CDR's, the noises of the threat of invasions, which gave rise to the Territorial Troops Militias [MTT] [applause]; what was the third noise, Armando? [crowd laughs] Oh, the noise in embassies gave rise to the combatant people's marches. Well, there have been many noises [crowd laughs] which have caused many responses, because after the elimination of the sugar quotas those noises resulted in nationalization, as they took our quotas away we were taking industries away from Yankee transnationals. [applause]

As a result of the suppression of oil supplies Soviet oil supplies emerged which have played a decisive role in the history of our country. [applause] From the sound of the blockade came the sound of our ties to the socialist community. [applause] From the sound of the 15 September bombing came the proclamation of the socialist character of our revolution. [applause] From the sound of the mercenary invasion of Giron came the sound of the first imperialist defeat in Latin America. [applause] Also from the sound of the threats received at other times emerged a militia composed of workers and peasants. [applause]

There really has not been any imperialistic sound that has not received a response. From the sound of division emerged the unity of the people and the instructions for unity of the people. [applause] From the sound of anti-communism came the proclamation of the Marxist-Leninist characteristic of the revolution. [applause] There certainly has not been any imperialistic action that has not received a response. That has been one of the philosophies of the revolution and I believe that it has gone well for us. The adequate response given at the adequate moment. [applause] The response is not crazy but intelligent and wise because sometimes they do things to see how we respond because they are imagining determined responses and are confronted with another response. To tell the truth, they never have succeeded, they never succeed, and they never will succeed. [applause]

When the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution were created, we were far from imagining what we were creating. Yes, we knew we were creating a formidable, extraordinary instrument against the counterrevolution. We knew that. We knew that the counterrevolution in this country could not move once the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution were created. We were far from imagining how many tasks, how many functions, and how necessary this organization was, not only for our revolution, but for any revolution. This mass organization was needed. Other mass organizations existed. Historically, the trade unions existed. Extraordinarily they were developed with the revolution.

The revolution created a mass organization with women, not a committee or a staff organization, but a mass organization. Historically, peasant organizations existed. The revolution developed a peasant organization that grouped practically all the peasants of the country. Traditionally, there also existed student organizations. The revolution developed the student organizations and gave them tasks to express themselves to the maximum. Traditionally, in socialist countries, there existed pioneer organizations. The revolution applied the experience of the pioneer organizations and developed them to the fullest. It began with the small children through the 6th grade until we learned that they were too young. When artistic groups were formed, when distinct activities were created, distinct experiences, they rapidly forgot it in the length of time that the child went from sixth to seventh grade. It can be said that it was a wise decision to extend the age of the pioneers through the ninth grade.

The revolution did not create a mass party but, very deliberately and very wisely, we made a selective party, a vanguard even though we have said many times that our people are a vanguard people.

Not all the revolutionaries are members of the party. I can say that all members of the party are revolutionaries. But there are many more revolutionaries in our country than members of the party. [applause] The revolution did not create the Union of Young Communists [UJC] as a mass organization, but as a vanguard organization. Those vanguard organizations, now that the CDR has reached its 25th anniversary, have more than 500,000 militants, that is each of them. [applause]

But what did we have on that 28 September 1960? Very little of all this I have mentioned. We were undergoing a process of integration of the revolutionary organizations, seeking unity. Nothing had begun, everything was in the initial stages of development. The creation of this organization was a very timely occasion, it was essential, indispensable. The organization's objective was to struggle against the enemy. Its main task was the struggle against the counterrevolution; it was its fundamental initial objective. No one could think that this organization, which emerged when the bombs were exploding, would have so many possibilities as it was later demonstrated. Many of the revolution's gains cannot be imagined without this mass organization. Summing up, without the CDR the party would have to become a mass organization. The UJC would have to become a mass organization. [applause]

Neither one could be vanguard organizations, because how could we organize the great masses? The peasants were organized in the countryside, on the mountains; the students in the schools; the workers were organized in the factories, in the work centers. The women were organized but they were only a part of the population.

Who was going to organize the neighborhoods: Who was going to unite that immense revolutionary flood making up the people? Precisely because of that, the CDR is the largest organization. It is made up of workers, women, peasants, students, soldiers, party militants, UJC militants. Practically all citizens are in the CDR ranks. The child care centers' children of course are not in the CDR. The pioneers are not members of the CDR yet.

But the CDR has 6,398,000 members, 84 percent of the adult citizens, 14 years or older. All revolutionaries are not members, yet it has that membership. The pioneers are revolutionaries and are not members; they will be later on. [applause]

Here we see new faces, but not many old ones. This gathering looks young to me, looks enthusiastic, energetic. Those are the qualifications of the youth. [applause] Just a curiosity, how many of you were present on that 28 September, 25 years ago, at the old presidential palace? Raise your hands. That is interesting data. How many of you have been CDR members the past 20 years? I am going to ask one last question. How many of those present here were not yet born on that 28 September? That is very interesting.

We can see how the CDR continues to grow with young blood. That is the way to create a tradition. Logically, I believe that those with the most time in the organization were the ones invited to this ceremony, those with the oldest history in the organization, [applause] those with the greatest merits in the organization. [applause] That is why there are so many of that initial 28 September.

It is admirable to see a large number of youths here, youths who were born after that 28 September. [applause] That is palpable proof of the historic continuity of the process.

One of the goals of the Third Congress, one of its important points, is to promote youths to leadership posts of the CDR, youths now perhaps 14 years old who are already CDR members. [applause] It is very encouraging and it also consoles us for the painful absence of those who were at our side at that time and who are no longer with us. That is, they are no longer physically with us although their relief, those who will replace them, are ready. Another 25 years will without doubt go by and the 50th anniversary of the CDR will be commemorated. I have not the slightest doubt of this. [applause] But there is more: I am sure, and I have this hope, that many of you will be present and participate in the 50th anniversary. [applause] Yes, Yes. It would not be at all strange. Those who have visited the USSR, those who have been in (Smolning), have met persons who lived at the time of the October Revolution, in 1917. Those who visit the cruiser "Aurora" meet old sailors who explain what happened on that glorious day of the October Revolution. This will not be determined by the party; it will be determined by nature, by your vital capacity, the attention you give to your health, to the struggle against being sedentary and obese. [applause] And of course if medicine advances, a greater number of those present will still be here. In any case, we will all be here in 50 years time. [applause] All of us! [applause] In the works of the revolution, in the continuation of this effort, in the future members of the CDR, who will represent all of us! [applause]

Armando mentioned some of the tasks performed by the CDR in these 25 years. It would be hard to summarize 25 years. He did not attempt it and I will not attempt it either. [laughter] He mentioned a few things. I am going to mention a few, perhaps some the same, some different, but in broad terms.

He reviewed the tasks of the CDR in revolutionary vigilance. He did not say -- he may have left it for me -- that in the tasks of revolutionary vigilance, about 200,000 CDR members participate actively. It is a task of enormous importance for those who most actively participate in that activity. There are the people's guards who, as he said have been reduced to 36,000 per shift. I do not think the enemy will be very enthusiastic about this figure because when it has been necessary there have been 100,000 and more per shift. [applause] What has been done is to make the work more rational, save energy, not only fuel but also human energy. There is more time for studying, for self-improvement, for rest. This has also been done with the studies circles. With all the mass organizations we had, sometimes the same person had to study the materials as a party member, as a member of the Federation of Cuban Women [FMC], as a member of a youth organization, perhaps as a student, in addition to being a member of the CDR, or a farmer. Not only the organizations multiplied, the activities of the citizens also multiplied. The greater the number of memberships, the greater the amount of work.

I remember having heard many times of how much work the teachers had to do, especially militant teachers. FMC teachers, trade union teachers, and teachers involved in the methodology of the Ministry of Education who had to fill out all the required papers, participate in emulations, etc., etc. They said that teachers did not have time even to breathe! This caused many discussions, ideas, in an attempt to make this more rational and get teachers to attend only one studies circles, and not repeat studies in various circles. I do not know how much we have progressed in this.

You CDR members should know more about this than I do because I have to reproach myself with not having gone to a single CDR studies circle. [laughter] I have often received blame for those circles. [laughter] Because they send you material from a speech of a pronouncement or something. It would be good for me to study it too, as an exercise in self-criticism [laughter, applause]

The same thing has been done with guard duty. It has been made more rational. Armando mentioned the sea-watching detachments [mirando al mar], which have also played an important role. He did not mention the support brigades, which have helped so much. [applause] This is a special task, created following... [changes thought] to which 27,000 comrades belong. Brigades that support the world youth and students festival. [applause]

There are the vigilant militants, a series of activities related to revolutionary vigilance and the struggle against crime, anti-social activities. So the first objective of the creation of the CDR, revolutionary vigilance, is fulfilled with the decrease of counterrevolutionaries, by the counterrevolutionaries being totally defeated, logically the number of enemies decreased. A considerable number emigrated, and the CDR's said: great! [crowd laughs]. We said: Do not leave alone, all who are of the same kind, leave. [applause] The field was weeded. The number of confused ones decreased. Revolutionary conscience developed. That is one of the main factors the revolution has achieved. The masses organized in all sectors, not only in the committees. Strength multiplied so other outlooks were seen. The committees were struggling against crime, against anti-social activities. Remember how many things the revolution had to struggle against, against gambling, vices such as drug usage -- it never reached a high level, but it existed. It struggled to eradicate in a reasonable and human way the prostitution scourge capitalism left in our country. We still struggle against anti-social expressions which exist and will force us to struggle for many years. But we must not feel discouraged if we have and we count on the organizations we count on.

The defense committees worked on the political education of the people. Earlier, the circles were mentioned, an average of 75,000 circles to study each subject in the CDR's. Recently, Armando reminded us that the first circle the defense committees studied was Havana's Second Declaration on 1961. [applause] They developed cadres schools with their ups and downs until some years ago, a good number of years ago, Lazaro Gonzalez opened, which was stabilized, and in that cadre school thousands of CDR cadres have been trained. We could ask here, we are not going to ask, but I am sure that many of you have gone through those cadre schools, especially those of you who are in the presidency. I am not thinking of the vice ministers, no. I am thinking in the leadership of the CDR. They are mixed here, labor leaders -- I am sure the labor leaders have not attended the defense committees' schools because they also have their own schools. But they can lend us some cadres or we can lend them cadres also if they need them. I am sure that has happened more than once, that other organizations, the party itself, the people's government, have asked cadres to the CDR's. Is it or is it not true? [crowd answers: Yes!]

The defense committees have worked a lot in the education of the people, in dissemination of revolutionary ideas, using the very effective propaganda which is direct propaganda, direct work with the people, or using local ways and means to spread revolutionary ideas.

The defense committees have worked a lot in historic research and spreading our country's history through thousands of history teams who have conducted tens of thousands of lectures -- I believe history teams have conducted over 60,000 lectures -- and thanks to them the people are discovering their history, not only the history of their fatherland but their local history, the values nobody ever remembered before, nobody considered before.

But the committees have not only worked in the people's political education but have supported education in general, as Armando mentioned through many activities, among them the exemplary parents movement which amounts to near 1.7 million. They have helped a lot in the development of education in our country. With the people's parents schools -- I believe they are called that -- they say around 4 million parents attend. If there are 4 million I imagine aunts also attend and sometimes grandmothers, don't you think? [crowd laughs] But it is a big number; there are 1.7 exemplary parents and 4 million who participate in the people's parents schools. It is a considerable number.

As Armando mentioned, the committees participated in the organization of the literacy campaign and in preparing lists of illiterates. They later participated in the follow-up campaigns. They have not only worked on education in general but in the promotion of sports through the sports councils, through the massive participation in sports movement. If the work in that area goes well, we mentioned earlier that the possibilities that there are many in the 50th anniversary increases.

I repeat, it will increase in those physical tests, in the campaign to walk, race, exercise. They really have great possibilities. From our point of view, the health indexes will only improve through that method. It will not be from therapeutic methods or vaccinations. Those areas can still be advanced. We can still do more and we are. I believe we will achieve this in reducing infant mortality from 15 [percent]. Even though we know, unfortunately, that it will rise a little. But we aspire to reduce this through several programs and to have one of the lowest rates in the world. There is still a margin but it is not the same to reduce it from 70 to 15 [percent] as it is to reduce it from 15 to 10 [percent]. There are countries that have 100 and more than 100 [percent]. In Cuba, the rate is not known. A conservative calculation is 60 [percent] but it is quite a difference between 60 and 45 [percent]. There is potential to save lives and today they are being saved. The potential now is smaller. It can be reduced from 15 to 10 [percent] or possibly one day from 9 to 8 [percent]. All this comes from early diagnostic services and prenatal genetics which could avoid births that are condemned to death. This comes from different methods such as cardiovascular surgery. I warn... [does not complete sentence]

I am not studying medicine. I have met two or three students that have asked me: They say you are in your fourth year of medical studies. [laughter] I would have liked to study medicine. Those students have a good concept of me because they imagine that with all the work I have and with all the papers, books, and materials I have to read, with all the meetings, all the people I have to meet, they think I still have time to be in my fourth year of studying medicine. [laughter] Really. The truth is that medicine is a difficult career. No one should think that one can memorize the material at the last minute and then test it. It is not that way. It is a difficult career.

Some things about medicine stick in my mind, above all the health programs being developed by the revolution. Among them, for example, is infant cardiovascular surgery, a program that is being developed. Constructions for this purpose are rapidly being built. Personnel are being prepared. It should also reduce some aspects such as infant mortality in the first year.

There are many programs and many things to help adults. Cytological tests, preventative medicine, and massive vaccination campaigns all help. In the future, prevention has to be sought to eliminate those factors that reduce the possibilities of life. It is said that the human potential is 120 years. It is said that is the human potential but very few have reached that age.

There are several hundred centenarians in our country. I do not know if you know that. The number of people over 90 years of age, over 80 years of age fortunately is increasing in our country through medical services, improvements in medical services and technology, and new medications. Much can be done, above all for adults. I believe that new technologies will combat disease that until now had no remedy. Undoubtedly, what will elevate the prospects for life in the future will be the struggle against the elements that shorten life. We are viewing 72, 73 years of age. It seems to me that we all have to give something in these campaigns and make some sacrifices to complete them. When I speak of this I speak of smoking too. I speak of that because we still have to make a contribution against all the factors that affect health and life. That is why those campaigns are so important. You can call them cultural sports but I am convinced that the campaigns you make favoring sports and physical education are medical campaigns that will prolong life. When our country is established not only in therapeutic medicine, or goes one step further in preventative medicine, the defense committees will have to play an important role.

Now remember, in the next few years you will have the family doctor, a new concept. It is called the family doctor but the concept is totally new. This year 500 will be incorporated. I know: I have recent news on the work of those doctors, the things they do. They have made the elderly walk, the fat run [laughter]. Many people who reach a certain age, the day they reach 70 years of age, they sit down. They no longer walk. It is essential to walk, to continue to walk. They maintain a special vigilance on all risk cases. Thanks to them we have excellent statistics and they are very useful, how many diabetic cases there are, cardiac problems, high blood pressure. Those cases are being studied because they have the files on each of the people they attend. The plan began recently but this year 500 doctors will be incorporated within the following months. The year after that there will be 1,500 doctors. The work those doctors do is of great importance.

I know that social prevention is included. Some boys that are semi-disciplined have been made to play sports. They have been organized. They are going to help prevent crime. They help when delinquent boys emerge. They know because the one who is in the clinic does not know where he lives, how a family, a person, a patient lives. The ones who are there are the committees for health defense which are associated with you because they are organized by agreement as the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution are created. I would like to see what can be produced in the future by the association of 20,000 doctors, specialists in internal general medicine, if we combine their work with the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution in the community.

I think the results that can be expected of that work are amazing. The CDR, the same as the FMC, began with health workers. Just imagine how this effort can be multiplied, what this effort can produce, with the presence of a physician for each 500, 600, or 700 persons. I believe in this area, although we have been talking about sports, the two get mixed up: sports and physical conditioning and health campaigns. These belong to two different fields, to sports and public health. The CDR have worked promoting and supporting the cultural movement. And they have made progress by supporting amateurs, discovering the people's artistic possibilities. The CDR, and I am getting into medicine, have worked extraordinarily hard. They have helped a lot. Armando mentioned the number of polio vaccinations administered; I believe he mentioned 36 million. How could that campaign have been carried out, which included the entire population, without the CDR organization? How could the other vaccination campaigns have been carried out without the support of this organization which, as I said earlier concerning sports, will play a more important role, in my opinion, in the health campaigns of the future?

I believe the CDR began their health campaigns in 1962, which was also the year in which voluntary blood donations began, which were the first made: 8,000 blood donations. Now, as Armando explained, donations number 235,000 [applause]. All voluntary. [applause] But of greater importance is the habit they created among the population, the conscience they awakened so that when a special situation comes up, as happened in the case of Peru, which he mentioned, 100,000 donations were made in 10 days. One hundred thousand in 10 days. This shows there is a potential to react to a given situation, as the situation of Mexico could have turned out to be. And we in fact have sent amounts of plasma. What happened is that, although Mexico had many victims and many injured, with the cooperation of the Mexican people, who number 75 million, they could cover their needs. For this reason, although many volunteers came forward, they did not require great quantities of plasma or blood. In Peru, the number of victims was about 70,000 -- if I remember correctly -- 70,000 dead. There were more dead than injured although many persons also disappeared in landslides that crushed entire cities.

Mexico is a country that has natural and economic resources, and they have done all they could. They were very grateful for all the aid offered, very grateful, but logically they did not request what they did not need although the entire world including our country offered everything needed, everything! In a situation like this one, if 200,000 donations were needed, I am sure the people would make 200,000 donations in 10 or 15 or 20 days. I have not the slightest doubt. [applause]

There are few other countries with that formation, with that vocation for solidarity that our people have. Our people are always ready to express their generosity, their solidarity. The number of donations grows with no special efforts. That is, we have what we need. The people give it.

Armando did not mention -- although data exist on the things done by the CDR -- the campaign to donate organs and tissues, that campaign that is so important because it can save sight and lives. In the case of these donations, more than 4,080,000 CDR members signed pledges, in case of sudden death... [applause] In case of sudden death, they donated organs and tissues. This was an important step in awakening the conscience of our people because they are trying to preserve life, to do good, without doing ill to anyone. For these sensitive issues one needs to have a conscience. Our people have proven they have that conscience.

I remember there was talk of a law, and we said "no." This problem cannot be solved with a law. A lot of things cannot be solved with laws. They are solved according to the willingness of the people, the will of the people, the desires of the people. It is not the same when one has to donate by law and the family has to accept by law as when it is voluntary, as when it is done spontaneously, voluntarily. And the revolution resolves many problems through the attitude of the people and the people's willingness, rather than by laws. Consider the public health campaigns, the visits to doctors, everything that has been achieved in the field of public health.

Mention was also made of the achievements of the CDR in conservation, with the collection of enormous quantities of glass containers and tons of paper, which are returned to the factories and used as raw materials; aluminum, metals, scrap metals, everything that can be used has been collected in quantities that are important economically. This is an activity of the CDR. Comrade Armando also spoke of voluntary work, activities often carried out to support construction work. I believe that, according to statistical information, the CDR's have participated in 10,000 construction jobs.

Armando spoke of work hours. I noted the figure of approximately 10,000 projects, including the repair of streets and sidewalks, help in schools, the maintenance of schools, and various types of social and economic construction. They have helped. He mentioned the Havana stadium. I remember that the Cienfuegos stadium was built in the same way with the cooperation of the CDR and it has always been done that way. They are now constructing a prototype of a consultation center with a living area upstairs for the family doctor. Three were built in the Lawton area of Havana. The neighbors helped considerably. This must have been the case because some of these model houses were built in 15 days, others in 10 days. This was done just by the builders, but also with the assistance of the neighbors. I am sure that the CDR were there helping to build this kind of doctor's office with a home upstairs.

The volunteer work has also included the repair of and beautification of the cities, and the planting of ornamental trees. They have also worked in removing obstacles for the mechanization of the sugar cane harvest, the planting of sugar cane, and other activities. Above all, they worked in removing obstacles. I think the committees for the defense of the revolution worked in more than 50,000 caballerias in all. This is very important because in order to mechanize the sugar cane harvest, obstacles, rocks, and sticks must be removed. These are some of the examples of the effort that the CDR carried out in fields other than revolutionary vigilance. They are very important. That is why I say that this organization will last. We say that the population's health must be improved, all of our life, and in any society we must struggle to improve the health of the population. This is a task of the CDR.

The need for the CDR has now been increased with the measures that the country has adopted in the defense field. They were adopted in view of the threats of imperialist aggression and the clamor that the imperialists made with their threats, which forced us to multiply our defense efforts, to develop new concepts, and to apply them. We had to develop the concept of a war of all the people which required a great material and human effort. How much would this effort have cost without the people's cooperation?

The CDR have been participating in the support of mass organizations and the masses in defense activities. Often -- all the time -- they participated in the farewells for the boys going into the service and training of boys going into the service, and welcomes for those who had carried out internationalist missions.

This new situation and the concept of a war of all the people, in other words the defense of the country by all the people along with the FAR, led to the important participation of the CDR in the mental and political preparation of the people, and in the preparation of the people for all of the civil defense activities and for the defense and struggle against the invader.

The activities of the CDR in the organization of the defense zones, in the construction of shelters to protect the population, and in the construction of fortifications are very extensive. When we had to struggle not against the counterrevolution -- even though we must always be on guard -- but against the threats of an imperialist invasion of our homeland, the CDR gave their response. They demonstrated their capability and showed the enormous importance of this organization.

The CDR have participated in mobilizations. How could those huge mobilizations, those marches of the fighting people have been achieved without the CDR? Those mobilizations have included occasions when our country has distinguished visitors although mobilizations in this field have been reduced because now we receive many visitors, you cannot imagine. Previously, we had only a few heads of state visit us. The mobilizations during a tour were huge. They were costly. In view of our policy of austerity and savings, we also had to change the concept of massive welcomes in the city. Now that the city is smaller, the welcoming ceremonies are done here or in the Isle of Youth.

Talking about the Isle of Youth, we recently had a visitor, but -- for one reason or another -- the public was not informed of his arrival. The program was so austere that the public on the Isle of Youth had received no advance notice. I recall that I arrived with the visitor accompanied by members of the party. We went to the former model prison, although there was nothing model about it, to visit some historical places there. When I asked Comrade (Manret) if the people were expecting the visitor, he said no. I then asked him: Is there time to send a message? He replied: Yes. When we arrived, only 45 minutes had elapsed from the time the people were informed that a visitor was coming and the time we arrived. However, there were more people than ever in Nueva Gerona, on the Isle of Youth. It was incredible. It was a miracle of mobilization and organization. How did they manage this? How could the party accomplish such a feat without the right mechanisms? The party's militants and leaders are well-organized, but the only way the party can quickly mobilize the population in 45 minutes is through the CDR [applause] the CDR's role in this regard has been of enormous importance.

Armando also referred to international activities, since hundreds of cadres in other countries have been trained at the CDR's National Cadres School. I am sure that wherever there is a social change or a revolution, the CDR's in that country will have an important role, but perhaps under a different name. The names may vary, but the institutions are similar and the principle and idea are the same: to organize the masses in order to defend the revolution.

Now, the CDR's have done political work. Political [repeats himself]. All of their activities have a great political meaning because this is not a government institution. It helps by educating the people, creating civic awareness and good habits, and preparing the people for any contingency, circumstance, or risk, which gives us an enormous strength. We can say that the CDRs' work has been eminently political. Their work cannot be substituted. Some things could have never been accomplished without the CDR. They will always exist, regardless of the circumstances.

When we consider all of the things they have accomplished and continue to do, we realize that it is not a transitory organization. Even if there is no imperialism and socialism is predominant in society, we will always have to struggle to provide a better education for citizens, for the children, parents; we will always have to face problems. We will always have to struggle for the people's health. We will always have to struggle for many of the things you are trying to achieve now. Therefore, I do not see anything that can substitute for this community organization, this neighborhood organization. For this reason, in reality the 28 [September] reply, which was provoked by the enemy, has made us think of something, and that is that we must be grateful to the enemy, because we must thank the enemy for its stupidity. [applause] The enemy's stupidity has helped us considerably. Above all, they have not only helped us find a reply to their stupid actions, but also to avoid being stupid ourselves. We will let the enemy do that for us, to do all of the stupid things. We do not want to emulate imperialism by committing stupidities.

This 25th anniversary takes place at a very important time, when we are approaching the party's third congress. It takes place at a time when our country is making great efforts not only in preparing the people for defense, but also at a time when the people are making great efforts for development in accordance with the basic ideas announced at the end of last year. At this time our people are bent on working on program in order to increase savings and on conducting an optimum economic and social program, giving priority to the economic field and establishing priorities therein. Our country is making an enormous effort, an effort that can measure up to the third congress and this 25th anniversary, and which must continue in future years if we want to continue reaping success and victories.

We are now confronting some difficulties due to natural causes. As you know, we have been experiencing a severe drought since the end of last year. It rained very little during the first 8 months of this year; the rainfall has been significantly below the historical average, which of course has affected our milk production to a certain degree, our food and vegetable production, our cattle production to a certain extent, and our coffee production; in sum, almost all of our agricultural production. According to estimates, it will affect 12 percent of our next sugar cane harvest. In other words, our 1986 sugar cane production will be 12 percent below our estimates. However, the fact that it did not rain during the harvest period was beneficial in a certain way, because when it rains a lot during this time productivity drops. This time it did not rain during the harvest, which somehow helped us meet our goals. We ground less cane but produced more sugar. The negative effects on the harvest were offset by productivity. It has not rained much this year. We had a dry spring. It began to rain a little in August. May, June, and July were dry months. This has affected our water supply in the capital city. The water reserves have not recovered from the drought; however, we hope the situation will improve with the October and November rains, or we might have to face another drought without having normalized the capital's water reserves. This drought will affect our sugar cane harvest, lowering it approximately 12 percent below the estimates. However, despite all of the problems, our economy experienced growth in 1984, continues to grow this year, and I believe it will continue to grow in 1986, despite the reduction in the sugar cane and sugar production and despite the setbacks in the agricultural field.

We have seen that many projects are advancing. We were recently in Cienfuegos and were highly impressed with the construction of the thermoelectrical plant there. We are proud to see what our workers are now capable of building, such as that difficult, colossal, and complex construction work. We understand that the works at the northern and eastern mining areas, which are the largest, are advancing. We recently visited a very important scientific research center for genetic engineering and biotechnology. This project is advancing at a rapid pace, and it appears it will be ready by 30 June 1986, as planned. It will be a center of great importance for our economy and for the people's health. Its personnel are being trained. In other words, we are making serious efforts to improve quality, efforts which must continue in the future. It is no longer a matter of expanding our education and health fields, since this has already been accomplished. We must now improve our quality in all areas, which will depend basically on our efforts.

This 25th anniversary takes place at a very difficult time in the world. Although there is still hope, it is indeed a very difficult time. We must find solutions, act rationally, and achieve detente, or the arms race will continue to erupt with all of its fury. Increasingly large sums of money are spent on arms amid a tremendous world economic crisis. Rational solutions for detente must be found to put an end to the arms race and bring hope for a solution of the economic problems.

The upcoming talks between the Soviet and U.S. leaders are very important. However, according to reports, the prospects for a more rational and realistic policy on the part of the United States are very slim. Nevertheless, it is hard for the United States not to see the economic abyss into which it has fallen, with an enormous budget and commercial deficits that together will total $350 billion this year.

Now, in order to give you an idea of the economic situation in that country and the consequences that the waste of money in the arms race can have, we have only to note that the United States imports $350 billion and exports approximately $200 billion. It currently receives $150 billion in imports that are not compensated for by its exports. It is consuming $150 billion more than it exports, and naturally this will have castastrophic consequences on its economy.

The "star wars" program and the arms race are becoming an increasingly undeniable reality to all, just like the catastrophic situation in the Third World, which affects Latin America as part of the Third World, and the concomitant explosive situation in all of these countries. We have dedicated a large part of our time this year to the task of protesting this situation. As you know, we held five meetings during a period of 2 months, and seven international meetings during a period of 4 months, all of which have been fruitful. They have provided an opportunity to learn about the tragedy looming over all those countries. The unemployment figures, the incredible figure of 110 million unemployed or underemployed people in Latin America, the increasingly high number of children who died during their first year of life, and the growing figures of hunger and malnutrition are not our invention.

Here the representatives of Latin America, be they women, newsmen, workers, prominent economists, intellectuals, political figures, youths, or students, have all -- from an intellectual to the representative of an Indian community, from laymen to churchmen -- spoken about the tragedy that looms over these countries.

Twenty-five years ago when we returned from the United States we realized what was happening in Latin America. At that time they came up with a decoy, the Alliance for Progress. It was to resolve Latin America's problems, including illiteracy, unemployment, hunger and lack of health standards, in order to justify the need to crush that confused revolution that had emerged on an insignificant Caribbean island, destroy it, and find support for its mercenary, direct invasions. That is why the Alliance for Progress was created. They were going to give $20 billion over a period of 10 or 15 years. Now, Latin America is giving more than $40 billion in cash only, and it is losing more than $20 billion due to the increase in prices. It loses more than $70 billion, while approximately $10 billion come in the form of credits and investments.

Back then, they spoke about the Alliance for Progress. We had not yet undertaken the literacy campaign or resolved the problems of infant mortality, unemployment, prostitution, and poverty. In general terms, they had not been resolved by 1960. Only 1 and 1/2 years had gone by since the revolution. However, what did the Alliance for Progress provide? So many children died. How many illiterates are there today? How much unemployment? How many malnourished and hungry people? What has the imperialist, capitalist system resolved in the Latin American countries? Absolutely nothing! It has made everything worse. In addition to this, Latin America owes $360 trillion [as heard] which those countries are cruelly and unmercilessly looting.

Meanwhile, who can deny that in our country beginning the year after the creation of the CDR, the anti-illiteracy campaign -- with 100,000 youths, teachers, students, and adults who joined -- eliminated illiteracy? The follow-up campaign, the worker and peasant education programs have graduated so many people during these years. Our workers possess at least a 9th grade education. What other country can boast of this? The indexes of infant mortality decreased from 60 to 15 percent. Life expectancy rose from approximately fifty something -- no one knows because there were no statistics -- to a level as high as that in the United States. We have health standards today that are equal to those in the United States and some that are better. Education standards? Better than those in the United States. The [applause] United States has including illiterates and semi-illiterates, more than 70 million. It holds the 48th place in the world in educational standards.

Cuba's unemployment problem was a plague in our country. We may have surpluses of workers in some areas; however, that is not due to a lack of work but to the nature of the work. We lack laborers in many parts of the country. The City of Havana itself proves that we need many more construction workers. We must bring construction workers [chuckles] from the eastern provinces. There are thousands and thousands of workers in Cienfuegos who come... [changes thought] the labor force in many provinces is below the demand. Many provinces are obliged to transport workers from one area to another. Before, when there was a new construction project in Havana, an enormous line of people would form in search of work. Besides, construction work was not appreciated; it was despised. Construction work is among the most honorable there is in our country and among the most appreciated by all of the people.

When I ask them to tell me how many brothels there are in Cuba they cannot name a single one. How many casinos are there in Cuba? How many barefoot children and children who beg are there in Cuba? How many beggars do you see on our city streets? How many children lack schools? How many sick people lack doctors? [applause]

How many millionares and crooks are there enriched with funds from the public coffers? How much money escapes the country to end up in foreign banks? We ask 1, 10, or 30 questions and there is no possible comparison between this country and the one that they were trying to destabilize with bombs 25 years ago so that there would be no revolution. And moreover, it had not yet proclaimed itself to be a socialist revolution.

Why are we socialists? Why did our revolution proclaim a socialist revolution on 16 April? It is because there is no other revolution or political social process that can call itself a revolution if it does not supress the exploitation of man by man, if it does not construct socialism! [applause]

One cannot talk about revolution if one does not put an end to the control of transnational companies, of foreign investments, of the latifundium, of private property, which are the main means for production. One cannot talk about revolution without equality or social justice. One cannot talk about revolution if one does not demolish to the very core all vestiges of capitalism, as we did in our country. But that revolution was beginning... [changes thought] and since imperialism does not want any revolution -- neither socialist nor bourgeoisie, not even a small bourgeoisie, because anything that smells of revolution stinks for the imperialist and has a very bad taste -- it also wanted to eliminate the Mexican revolution because it was a bourgeoisie revolution early in the century. It nationalized the large latifundium and brought many social benefits. Naturally, at that time the country was not prepared for a socialist revolution, but Mexico was very stubborn. Remember the measures adopted by the Lazaro Cardenas administration when it nationalized the foreign oil companies? They resulted in boycotts and other similar measures. Remember the Guatemalan revolution? Remember the Santo Domingo invasion? In these revolutions the leaders were mostly military men. Imperialism does not want any type of revolution, much less a socialist revolution.

But what can there be without a socialist revolution? If we had not waged a socialist revolution we would not have done anything. What would have become of our country? How much would our families be paying for rent? Who would own the apartment buildings and the houses? Nobody, absolutely nobody. The landlords had thousands of housing units, they had hundreds, or dozens of housing units. True, there were some of them, some modest families who had one or two houses for rent. When the revolution issued laws in this regard it very much took into consideration the situation of these families and compensated and supported them. They ended up much better off. Those who had a single small house and received 60 pesos at that time continued to receive the 60 pesos and never had to worry about maintenance or collecting rent. They always received their money. Although it was believed for a number of years following the revolution that all those families who depended on a rent payment, their situation was taken into consideration, and they were protected. [sentence as heard]

Who would be the owners of our industries today? We would have capitalism here. One can live with austerity, with equality, but one cannot live with the parasites of society, with the exploitation of workers, with that society, [applause] and with all the corruption that the system entails for the country.

It would have been very difficult to have organized a militia of land troops in a capitalist system. How difficult it would have been to eliminate unemployment with the capitalist system. How difficult it would have been to abolish illiteracy with a system of private education.

How difficult it would have been to reduce infant mortality and put an end to all that with capitalism in our country. How difficult to put an end to prostitution and beggars with capitalism. The richest country, the United States, has beggars all over the place, prostitution, gambling, drugs, and more vices and problems all the time. The richest country in the world has not been able to solve that. [applause] They have not been able to solve unemployment, poverty. The most developed capitalist country, the United States, has not been able to solve all this. How could this revolution solve all these problems without socialism? With capitalism we would be like the other countries in Latin America.

We are completing this 25th anniversary at a time when the situation is difficult, but we must make a comparison between what we have, what we have achieved, and what we are going to achieve in the future. We are going to improve in everything, in education, health, sports, culture, in everything. If we improved in those years, when we started at point zero, just think about now, when we have much more. We are an organized people, we have tremendous political and social strength. This is a country that can show that it has made many achievements, in addition to economic growth, without having deducted a single centavo in education, health, or services to the people. Quite to the contrary, we have increased funding in all these fields. There is no other Latin American country that can say this.

In the midst of a large economic crisis, that is our situation. It is not one of abundance, of surplus that can be squandered, and one must never squander. It is not easy to make efforts in planning, in the development of the economy. We must be intelligent, wise. We must avoid mistakes of any type; we must avoid being subjective.

The situation calls for us not to lose our patience, not to expect miracles, not to expect solutions to come out of a magician's hat. No social problem can be resolved through miracles or magic. All these problems can be resolved only through work: intelligent, tenacious, and austere work. These are virtues that we must learn in the same way that we learned discipline, accuracy [puntualidad], and austerity; in the same way we learned to be persistent and courageous. The virtues that we do not have we must acquire. We acquired the virtues we have today; we did not have them 25 years ago. No one gave us those virtues; we learned them.

We know that we have our faults and that we must struggle untiringly to overcome them. Some of these faults are more difficult to overcome than some of those problems we have noted. We will not go into this.

The struggle for women's rights was much more difficult than the struggle to achieve other social goals. Today we must still continue to struggle, and we will continue to struggle; we are optimistic, we are tenacious, we have every reason to trust our potential. We have had our successes. This is why recalling all these things is good.

Armando did an outstanding job of putting together all that has been done by the CDR and all the other political and people's organizations of our country. This is why, after 25 years, I am convinced that you will fulfill the promise to further develop the organization, work harder, plan a big congress, and continue to work at the same rate, effort, energy, and enthusiasm on every front, as demanded by the revolution. Let me add that if on that 28 September the CDR was born, and it was called the CDR, today I can say that the CDR was not only a defense committee but a committee of forgers of the revolution, a committee that contributed to the development of the revolution [applause], a committee that created a revolution within the heart of the people.

Fatherland or death, we will win. [applause]